# Daily Report

# Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-031
Tuesday
15 February 1994

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## Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-031

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## British Prime Minister Major Welcomed at Airport

*LD1402203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Moscow on an official visit late on Monday [14 February]. This is his first visit to Russia.

At Moscow's Vnukovo-2 airport, Major was met by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other officials. The British premier inspected the guards of honour. The anthems of the two countries were played.

After the welcoming ceremony, the motorcade left for the British Embassy in Moscow where Major will be staying during the visit.

## Meets With Yeltsin

*LD1502075594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadi Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, February 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major have met for one-to-one talks in the Green Hall of the grand Kremlin Palace.

Welcoming the British prime minister Boris Yeltsin said: "We have met more than once and know each other well. This is why I am confident that our talks will be held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and success".

The two leaders are expected to sum up the results of cooperation between the two countries in recent years, which, according to Russian diplomats, have developed without any serious problems. The summit talks will certainly center around further strengthening of the legal and treaty basis of bilateral relations.

According to Russian diplomats, Boris Yeltsin and John Major will also focus on the situation in Europe and its security system, relations between Russia and the group of seven countries and the latter's gradual transformation into a group of eight.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia and the situation in Bosnia is also likely to feature prominently during the talks, as well as steps that Russia and Britain can take within the U.N. Security Council and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

## Signs Documents

*LD1502111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major signed a joint statement on reciprocal non-targeting of strategic missiles in the Kremlin here today.

Asked by journalists after the signing ceremony, Yeltsin said: "Some people are trying to solve the problems of Bosnia without Russia. We shall not allow this to happen. Russia will take an active part in the negotiations in order to end the war in Yugoslavia through negotiations."

## Issues Statement on Nuclear Missiles

*LD1502125894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and John Major, prime minister of the United Kingdon of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, issued a joint statement here on Tuesday [15 February].

The statement reads as follows:

- Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the two countries' partnership relations, based on the treaty, dated November 9, 1992, on the basic principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom,

- emphasising that the two countries' cooperation in the efforts to strengthen European and global security and build non-confrontational international relations is the basic element of these partnership relations,

- basing themselves on the discussions of nuclear issues by the two sides and proceeding from a desire to make a tangible contribution to strengthening strategic stability in the world,

the president of the Russian Federation and the prime minister of the United Kingdom are stating that they will issue the necessary instructions on mutual non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles which are under their respective command, so that the missile could be non-targeted not later than May 30, 1994.

So, the day-to-day control over the nuclear forces of the two sides will be exercised in keeping with the mutual recognition of the fact that the Russian Federation and the United Kingdon are not adversaries.

### Agrees on Joint Military Exercises

*LD1502133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1222 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Feb—Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and UK Prime Minister John Major "reached agreement in principle" that subunits of the Russian Federation and United Kingdom armed forces will hold a series of joint exercises starting in 1995. They stated this today at the end of their talks.

The aim of the exercises is to enhance the ability of the two countries' armies to cooperate during peacekeeping operations. The exercises will be the first experience of major armed cooperation between the UK and Russian armed forces since the World War II.

The exercises will be "of both military and political significance." As such they will be completely in keeping with the spirit of the idea of "partnership for peace" proposed at the NATO summit in Brussels in January 1994.

### Yeltsin Recounts Talks

*LD1502132494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Official negotiations between Russia and Great Britain ended in the Kremlin a few minutes ago. The documents signed at them are a mutual acknowledgement of the fact that the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are not enemies. This was said in the official joint statement by the president of the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

[Correspondent Sergey Suntsov] The official visit to Moscow of the British Prime Minister John Major began today. [passage omitted]

A joint statement was signed following the talks. It says that the two leaders will give necessary instructions on mutual non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles, to be accomplished not later than 30 May 1994.

Answering questions, Boris Yeltsin and John Major praised the state of bilateral relations. The British premier said he supports the Russian reforms and observed that cooperation is developing in political, trade, and military spheres.

The situation in the former Yugoslavia was also discussed during the talks.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I must say that our positions generally coincide. They coincide in the main thing - that is that heavy equipment around Sarajevo should be handed over to the UN forces, and so the shelling there will stop. Second - both the Serbs and the Muslims should be forced, by way of negotiations, to sit down at the negotiation table and resolve the issue by a peaceful political way and stop the war in Yugoslavia.

Some are trying to resolve the Bosnian issue without Russia's participation. I would like to stress that this will fail, we will not allow it. Of course Russia will participate actively both in the negotiations and in the peaceful solution to the tragic events in Yugoslavia. I am happy that Mr. Major is supportive of our view. [end recording]

### Chernomyrdin Begins Talks With John Major

*LD1502134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and British Prime Minister John Major have just begun talks in the building of the Russian Government.

The talks are expected to focus on problems of bilateral cooperation in the economic sphere.

### Discusses Air Strikes, Trade

*LD1502152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Russia is against air strikes in Bosnia, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told ITAR-TASS after meeting his British counterpart in the Russian government building in Moscow.

John Major told reporters that Russia, the United States and the European Community should use their influence to resolve the conflict in Bosnia.

The British prime minister said Russia and NATO had the same goal in this respect—we want to put an end to the shelling of Sarajevo and reach a long-term political settlement of the conflict.

Chernomyrdin told journalists that the British prime minister and himself focused on the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries and specific projects relating, among other things, to the reconstruction of the Moscow telephone network and some technologies for the Russian fuel and energy sector. The British prime minister spoke in favour of expanding European investments in the Russian industry.

Chernomyrdin said the two countries are enjoying the most favourable climate for their trade and economic relations: in 1993, Britain came to rank third among Russia's western foreign trade partners.

### Major Says Views on Bosnia 'Identical'

*LD1502154694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—The British prime minister said on Tuesday [15 February] he had found no major contradictions with Russia on the Bosnian problem.

John Major told reporters after signing joint Russian-British agreements that the positions of both sides are completely identical on the necessity to continue searching for ways of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

He added that he and the Russian leader had agreed that such a settlement should be stable and that peace cannot be achieved by military means.

According to Major, the positions of both sides also coincide on the necessity to place under UN control the heavy armaments of the warring sides near Sarajevo.

The process has already begun and Major characterised it as a good chance for achieveing peace and urged Russia, the United States and the European Union to join efforts in order not to miss the chance.

The British prime minister believes that the Russian negative reaction to the possibility of air strikes on Bosnian Serbs was caused by a certain misunderstanding of the essence of the NATO decision.

He added that this was a competent and balanced decision which was limited by the concrete problem of Sarajevo and adopted according to a request of the UN secretary general.

Major said he shared the conviction of the Russian president that British-Russian relations had reached the highest level in decades. This concerns trade, politics and military cooperation. Such a level of practical cooperation did not exist in the last 50 years, the British prime minister said.

Major added that he had invited Boris Yeltsin to Great Britain and that the time of the visit will be agreed upon later.

### Lays Wreath in Ceremony

*LD1502094794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—British Prime Minister John Major laid a wreath at the unknown soldier's tomb here today morning, prior to the ceremony of his official meeting with the Russian president.

The anthems of Great Britain and Russia were played. A guard of honour and a military band marched past the tomb.

The traditional wreath-laying ceremony was an expression of the British people's gratitude to their ally under the anti-Hitlerite coalition, to the country that had saved mankind from fascism.

Duddley Pound, First Lord of the Admiralty of Great Britain, wrote to Admiral King, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Navy, on May 18, 1942, that he deemed it necessary to render every possible aid to the Russians at that difficult time. These words attested to the British people's deep realisation of their allied duty.

The British have contributed immensely to the aid rendered the Soviet Union in those years. It was marked by unprecedented scope, courage and solidarity. As many as 78 famous northern convoys, totalling about 1,500 transport ships, had sailed thousands of miles to Murmansk and Arkhangelsk through extremely dangerous waters during the four years of the Great Patriotic War. They delivered food and military hardware, ammunition and medicines to the Russian people. Russia will never forget that Great Britain had sacrificed the lives of many of its sons to help its Russian allies.

### Kozyrev, UK's Hurd Sign Agreement on Cooperation

*LD1502131394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—The agreement between the government of the Russian Federation and the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on education, science and culture was signed in Moscow by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd.

The agreement stating the striving of the two coutries for the development and strengthening of friendly relations define cooperation in education, science and culture as one of the ways of the deepening of mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and Great Britain.

The document, specifically, envisages assistance to exchanges between educational establisments, the study of languages and literature and the working out of educational programmes. The governments agreed to provide scholarships for studies and training in higher educational establishments.

Writers, artists, performers, musicians, film makers and architects developing direct contacts between the two countries also have a right to count on state support.

Every side will be encouraging the opening in its territory of centres of culture, education and information of the other side, the document says.

The governments of Great Britain and Russia intend to promote direct cooperation between the press, publishers, television and radio broadcasting and other organisations of the two countries in information area. Copyright protection is also envisaged by the agreement.

The document points to the need to expand cooperation between youth organisations in the areas of tourism and sports. Ties between united towns will be further developed.

The British Council will be assisting the implementation of the agreement as the main representative of the government of the United Kingdom. Appropriate Russian agencies will play a similar role on the Russian side.

### Hurd Meets With Grachev

*LD1502150394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Defence cooperation between Russia and the United Kingdom is developing successfully, Russian Defence Minister and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd, who is accompanying the British prime minister on his visit to Moscow, agreed during their meeting here today.

The 30-minute conversation of the two ministers centered around the Partnership for Peace programme. Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Monday, the Russian Defence Ministry fully supports the programme, but views differ on how the programme should be implemented, with each country insisting on its own viewpoint.

Pavel Grachev told the British secretary of state that an instrument should be worked out for joining the programme of Partnership for Peace. An intermediate plan is needed for this, under which European countries would join political alliances by region or bilaterally with the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe playing the dominant role.

### Yeltsin Addresses Newsmen on Bosnia

*LD1502143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin today told journalists in the Kremlin that nobody will be able to resolve problems linked with Bosnia without Russia. "We shall not allow this to happen," he stressed. The president said the Russian side would participate actively in negotiations on the Bosnian problem in order to put an end to the war in former Yugoslavia through negotiations.

Yeltsin told journalists after the signing of the joint Russo- British statement on the reciprocal non-targeting of strategic missiles, that the Bosnian problem was discussed in detail during his negotiations with the British prime minister. Our stands are identical on the main point—it is necessary to hand over to the united nations forces the heavy guns, deployed around Sarajevo. "This measure," the president said, "will allow us to stop the shelling of that city."

"Moreover," Yeltsin stated, "both sides have confirmed during the negotiations that the Bosnian problem should be resolved primarily by peaceful means, through negotiations. This will allow us to put an end to the war in former Yugoslavia."

Yeltsin recalled that the Bosnian problem was now being discussed in the U.N. Security Council. "This body must issue a mandate to the Blue Helmets to accept the guns removed from positions around Sarajevo. This is most important," he stated. The president believes the positions of the hostile parties in Bosnia could be bombed only if the Blue Helmets were attacked and called for help. "if somebody attacks the U.N. forces, he must be punished," he stressed.

Touching on bilateral relations, Boris Yeltsin noted that the dynamics of their development since his visit to London was borne out by the joint statement on the reciprocal non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles, signed here today, which is the first document of this kind in the world.

The joint statement, signed by Boris Yeltsin and John Major today, says that they would issue orders not to target at each other the strategic nuclear missiles under their command. This will be done not later than May 30, 1994.

### Churkin Comments on Lifting Sarajevo Blockade

*LD1402191894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by V. Martynov; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Martynov] What was the aim of your visit to Yugoslavia, the territory of the former Yugoslavia, today?

[Churkin] It was very simple: to prevent the renowned air strikes around Sarajevo.

[Martynov] What do you think, can Russia really prevent the bombing of the Serb positions and, more generally, the bombing of Bosnia by NATO forces?

[Churkin] All of our efforts are directed toward this, but I would like to stress the following, that we have a dual task. I have tried to underline this. Although the prevention of air strikes is important, the lifting of the blockade of Sarajevo is important too, because we really can no longer tolerate what has been happening around this city for almost two years now. We were perhaps even the first to state after the well-known, tragic events in Sarajevo on 5 February that it there should be agreement during the next few days, that this task, the lifting of the blockade on the city, should be carried out.

### Views Impact of Air Strikes

*LD1402234694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, 15 Feb—"The aim of my visit to Zagreb can be put in a single phrase: to prevent air strikes in the Sarajevo region," Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian Federation president's special envoy and deputy foreign affairs minister, stated on Monday [14 February] evening to the ITAR-TASS correspondent. But this is a dual task, he said. The blockade of Sarajevo absolutely must be lifted.

This issue was given absolute priority at the Russian diplomat's meeting yesterday with Yasushi Akashi, the UN secretary general's special representative to the former Yugoslavia, as well as at consultations planned for today in Sarajevo with General Michael Rose, the commander of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and with the commanders of the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims.

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent about the actions that Russia will take if strikes were not successfully averted, Vitaliy Churkin stressed that "everything will depend on the specific situation." "If strikes are made under conditions that we do not consider justifiable, then the consequences for our relations with the world around us are inevitable," the high-ranking Russian diplomat said, stressing that this was his personal view.

### Meets UN Officials

*LD1502151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, February 15 (TASS)—Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president and deputy foreign minister, had a series of meetings here on Monday night to discuss ways to settle conflicts between the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

Churkin met in particular with Yashushi Akashi, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative in the former Yugoslavia, and General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. Force.

"The purpose of my arrival in Zagreb can be formulated in one phrase: to secure that there are no air strikes in the area of Sarajevo. This is a dual task, though. The siege of Sarajevo must be lifted", Churkin told ITAR-TASS.

Asked what would be Russia's actions if air strikes are not avoided, Churkin emphasised that "everything will depend on a specific situation".

"If air strikes are delivered under conditions which we would deem unjustified, that would have inevitable consequences for our relations with the rest of the world," he said, pointing out that this is his personal point of view.

On Tuesday Churkin is to visit Sarajevo and then return to Zagreb for a continuation of the talks.

### Foreign Ministry Official Explains Bosnian Policy

*LD1502104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0944 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Feb—The main aim of Russian diplomacy at the present stage of efforts to settle the conflict in former Yugoslavia is to forestall the possibility that the warring sides' positions around Sarajevo might be bombed. Vladimir Ivanovskiy, a Russian Foreign Ministry representative, said this today at parliamentary hearings, which the State Duma's committee on geopolitical issues is holding. He accused both Serbs and Muslims of committing genocide against their own people, stressing that the aim of Russian diplomacy is to actively "encourage the use of political means to settle the conflict."

At the same time Vladimir Ivanovskiy described suggestions that peacekeeping forces should be pulled out of former Yugoslavia as "premature." He stressed that Russian diplomatic efforts were directed at achieving a single approach to the way that all interested parties—Russia, the United States, and the European states—view a political resolution of the conflict.

### Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

*LD1502105994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, February 15 (TASS)—"The NATO Council has not been empowered to adopt decisions on the essence of the Bosnian settlement, including the decision to deal air strikes in Bosnia. Such decisions must be adopted by the U.N. Security Council," says a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry, circulated here as a document of the Security Council on Monday [14 February].

"The NATO Council has adopted a statement on the Bosnian crisis problem. The council has urged all the

sides involved—the Serbs and the Moslems—to urgently place all their heavy armaments in Sarajevo district under U.N. control and to withdraw them from the city. This, in fact, is close to our stand. Russia has repeatedly advanced the initiative to urgently demilitarise Sarajevo and place the city under U.N. administrative control. We regard such measures as the most important step leading to the settlement of the Bosnian conflict as a whole. We are also pleased that the NATO Council, just as Russia, has confirmed its support to the idea of settling the conflict in Bosnia through negotiations. This calls for the world community's vigorous pressure on all the sides involved in the conflict. Unfortunately, an attempt to interpret this statement as a unilateral ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, who are threatened by air strikes, can be traced in the positions of several NATO members. The Russian Federation cannot agree with such one-sidedness," the statement points out.

The Russian Foreign Ministry stresses: "We are also sure that the Security Council should adopt, as we have proposed two weeks ago, decisions on the problem of de-blocking Sarajevo. Unfortunately, Russia's proposal was not accepted. This problem was at the same time submitted to the NATO council which, as we know, is not vested with the right to adopt decisions on the essence of the Bosnian settlement. The U.N. secretary-general had previously asked NATO to report on the alliance's readiness to use its Air Force if requested by the United Nations. A decision on such a request must be adopted by the secretary-general after consultations with members of the Security Council. This procedure, established by the Security Council, must be observed without fail."

The document notes that reports were received a few hours before the announcement on the NATO decision that the Bosnian Serbs and the Moslems had reached, with U.N. mediation, an agreement to cease fire, and had agreed on concrete measures to withdraw their armaments from Sarajevo. "The hasty decision, adopted outside the United Nations, may thwart this promising process. Progress towards a settlement is possible only if neither side gets advantages in the process of demilitarisation, effected by U.N. Forces," the document stresses.

The Russian Federation, the statement points out, offers the U.N. Security Council to urgently consider "practical ways to demilitarise Sarajevo and establish U.N. administration in it".

## Vorontsov Calls For Demilitarization of Sarajevo

*LD1402185594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN Headquarters, 14 Feb—Russia put forward an important initiative at the UN Security Council on urgently demilitarizing Sarajevo and introducing UN control in this town, Yuliy Vorontsov, Russian Federation permanent representative at the United Nations, said at today's open discussion of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Security Council.

"We note with satisfaction the agreement that UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] leaders have attained with Bosnian Serbs and the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina on a cease-fire and measures to ensure that all the sides, both Serbs and Muslims, urgently put their heavy armaments in the area of Sarajevo under UNPROFOR control or withdraw them from there. This is close to our positon. Russia has already more than once put forward an initiative of urgently demilitarizing Sarajevo and putting this town under UN control. We regard such measures as an important step toward settling the entire Bosnian conflictm," Vorontsov said.

## Grachev Reiterates Opposition to Air Strikes

*LD1402155094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reiterated his opposition to bomb attacks on the Serb positions near Sarajevo. He told journalists on Monday [14 February] that bomb attacks could escalate the military crisis in the center of Europe.

To quote Grachev, bomb attacks, even if they are carried out with extreme precision, which he doubts would be the case, would kill many people.

He also said that the decision on the withdrawal of the Russian peacekeeping force from Bosnia, if bomb attacks begin, must be taken by the country's political leaders. He said that Russian servicemen would have to perform their peacekeeping mission all the same. "So I don't think the Russian troops should be removed even after bombings," he said.

Speaking about Russia's possible participation in the Partnership for Peace project, Grachev said that this document had not yet been discussed by all the parties concerned. Every country interprets this document in its own way, he said. For instance, Eastern Europe and the Baltic States view this document in the context of a transitional period till joining NATO.

"For us this is a document which has to do with all European countries because it is expected to ensure European security," said Grachev. He also noted that Russia considered the Partnership for Peace project to be an intermediary step towards an even closer European political alliance under the leading role of the CSCE.

On the whole, Russia supports the Partnership for Peace project, he said. He did not say, though, when Russia would join it because, he said, the final instrument of joining this program has not been worked out yet.

### Filatov Warns of Negative Reaction

*LD1402171894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—"If upon the expiration of the ten-day ultimatum NATO begins bombing Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo, the public reaction in Russia will be negative," Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Filatov supported the position of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who said that force against Bosnian Serbs can be used only in extreme situations when all other means of conflict settlement prove unsuccessful.

Earlier today, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said that Russia is against air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Grachev spoke out against solving the Bosnian problem by force. The war experience of the United States in Vietnam and the Soviet Union in Afghanistan shows that inter-ethnic conflicts should be settled by political means, he added.

"If the bombing takes place, it will do no good to anyone," the Russian defence minister said. He stressed that Russian peacekeepers will stay in former Yugoslavia and continue their mission.

### Kostikov: Air Strikes Discredit 'Partnership for Peace'

*LD1502113494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary to the Russian Federation president, said that possible NATO airstrikes against Serb positions would be inevitably related in the public eye in Russia and the world to the United States and the recently launched Partnership for Peace American program. In his view, this operation will be perceived as a false start of the American initiative.

### Views 'Psychological Damage'

*LD1502145194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] The Russian president's press secretary stated that the world and Russian public would inevitably associate the contemplated air strikes on Serb positions with the recently launched Partnership for Peace program.

"I think this might inflict psychological damage to this diplomatic initiative," Kostikov told Interfax on Tuesday.

"The concept of this program has not been explained or understood fully," he went on to say, "many may perceive air strikes on the Serb positions by the NATO forces, in which the U.S. plays the leading role, as the implementation of this project. Given this, the operation might be viewed as the false start of the American initiative."

Kostikov also said that it was in the United States' and Russia's common interests to find a political solution to the Bosnia conflict.

### Greek Ambassador Explains Disagreement With Air Strikes

*LD1502092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Greek plenipotentiary ambassador to Russia Kiriakos Rodhousakis said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday [14 February] that the position taken by Greece as regards launching air-strikes on Serbian positions in the area of Sarajevo is absolutely clear. Greece is, perhaps, the only country of the North Atlantic alliance which declared that it disagrees with the NATO decision, which was officially registered in its document, the ambassador said. He spoke at a meeting of Russian and Greek businessmen arranged at the Greek embassy in Moscow.

The ambassador pointed out that if the bombardment and military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina begin, none of the Balkan countries should take part in these operations. Turkey, for instance, declared its readiness to send combat aircraft and take part in possible military operations which might entail more serious consequences, the ambassador said.

The situation in former Yugoslavia and issues of Russo-Greek bilateral relations and cooperation between the European Union and Russia will be in the focus of attention during Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's one-day visit to Athens scheduled on February 18, the ambassador said.

The Russian foreign minister will have talks with the Greek government and members of the so-called EC trio consisting of heads of foreign ministries of the former, future and present chairman of the European Union - Belgium, Germany and Greece, respectively.

According to the ambassador, the development of Russo-Greek relations goes ahead, especially following Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Greece. However, there was some stalemate in these relations because of parliamentary elections held in the two countries. However, Russo-Greek agreements will be given a new impetus by visits to Moscow by the Greek foreign, economics, defence and culture ministers and representatives of other departments.

Recently, new possibilities for the development of bilateral relations appeared, the ambassador added. A few days ago a delegation of the greek olympic airways company arrived in Moscow to discuss with their Russian colleagues the possibilities for the soonest possible opening of direct air routes connecting the capitals of both countries.

A delegation of the Greek Tourist Organisation (ZOT) is expected to visit Moscow soon to prepare expositions of Greek companies organising trips to Greece. A forum of Greek and Russian entrepreneurs is expected to be held in Moscow to discuss ways for further development of bilateral cooperation.

### Force Cannot Impose Peace in Bosnia or CIS

*PM1402144994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Observer Aleksandr Golts article under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Bosnian Knot and Moscow's Policy"]

[Text] Do you remember the cheerful mustached idiot in the film "Intervention" with his "regular army with a capital R—now that's something special"? It seemed to this inhabitant of Odessa, traumatized by the civil war, that the jolly French guys coming ashore from their ships were a foreign army that would finally bring order to the war-torn country. All this week, while NATO's political leaders and military have been hastily composing plans for air attacks and agreeing the text of an ultimatum to the warring parties in Bosnia, I have been recalling this character. Because once again seemingly sensible politicians are being taken in by the dangerous illusion that, by using military might, they can settle a regional conflict.

Having found themselves in a truly unpleasant situation following the Sarajevo market tragedy (a tragedy which, let me note, was largely attributable to the inconsistency of those who have been drawn into settling the conflict), the Western states as if by magic resolved to resort to the threat of using military force. Judging by reports coming from Sarajevo, the various sides in the conflict have apparently agreed to a cease-fire; they have also agreed to withdraw their heavy weapons or hand them over to UN representatives. However, the contracting parties themselves are not hiding their considerable skepticism about the likelihood of the agreement being implemented.

So it is entirely possible that those who issued the ultimatum will find they have to carry out their threats in the next few days. In previous editions of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA the complete dubiousness of the air strikes that are being prepared has in my view been convincingly demonstrated. Both from the military and the moral viewpoint. It is quite clear that air attacks will not disarm those who are training their guns on the peaceful inhabitants. And of course, those who really are guilty of this crime will escape retribution. I am suggesting that we should concentrate on a purely utilitarian approach, so to speak. Is it ultimately possible for a foreign "regular army with a capital R" to put a stop to an internal conflict which has already reached the scale of a full-blown war?

All the experience of the last few years, which is, let us be frank, a sad experience (let us recall Somalia, for example) unequivocally demonstrates that however hard such an army tries to stay neutral and "give each sister a pair of earrings," the use of force in itself inevitably drags this army down to playing the role of one of the parties to the conflict. With all the consequences that this entails. Then the medicine really does become more dangerous than the actual disease.

This is precisely the reason why Russia is demanding that the issue of air strikes be discussed in the UN Security Council. As Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev indicates in his letter to the UN secretary general, the resolutions adopted earlier by the Security Council certainly do not give a "green light" to bombing missions. The fact that this approach suits Russian interests is demonstrated by its almost unanimous support in the State Duma. And if talk of partnership with the West is not just idle chatter, NATO cannot fail to take account of the Russian position.

It would seem that the unanimous Russian refusal to countenance a "forced peace" in the former Yugoslavia should provide guarantees about a reappraisal of strong-arm methods regarding Russia's policy toward Commonwealth countries. However, in this instance not everything is so clear-cut. In my view, the tragic Yugoslav experience and the West's feeble attempts to settle the conflict have not been duly taken on board in our policy toward Commonwealth countries.

This is the policy expressed in a blueprint which in the West is already being called the "Kozyrev doctrine." The issue revolves around the statement which has been made in a number of the foreign minister's speeches regarding the obvious fact that the CIS is a zone of vital Russian interests. Moreover, the minister has warned against hastily withdrawing contingents of Russian troops from CIS states, rightly regarding our military presence as a factor contributing to stability.

I completely disagree with those who have been quick to see a manifestation of imperial ambitions in this approach. The fact is that Kozyrev's blueprint is not sustained by speculative theories about the resurgence of the Russian empire, but by the harsh reality of virulent or smoldering conflicts in the post-Soviet area. These are conflicts which pose a direct threat to Russia's security.

However, the implementation of this blueprint could, in my view, conceal a quite different sort of danger. Our politicians could rush from one extreme to the other: From their familiar disregard for the role of the army to attempts to shift onto it all activity connected with ensuring Russian interests in conflict zones.

Practically any "trouble spot" could serve as an example of this. Take Tajikistan. The coalition peacekeeping

forces, the main role in which is played by the Russian contingent, have managed to stabilize the situation and at least somehow to halt infiltration of the republic from outside. But has a lull—a temporary lull, as many army commanders believe—simply been exploited as a real settlement? It cannot be said that we have pushed official Dushanbe and the opposition toward talks. But fact remains a fact: The efforts of our diplomacy have certainly not had any real result. And will it not be the case that reliance on the army will be our only hope when hostilities flare up again in the republic with renewed force?

Or take the situation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The ink had hardly had time to dry on the treaty between Moscow and Tbilisi, a document which yet again focuses on the military-political aspect in the clearest and most explicit terms, than hostilities began all over again. It is hard to say who initiated these new military clashes. Either the Abkhazian forces want to check the truth of Moscow's statements that no military assistance will be given to Georgia before a settlement is achieved, or Tbilisi is trying to exploit if not the actual then at least the psychological advantages of the treaty.

It is clear, however, that this treaty has not been a way of prompting both sides to seek a political settlement. Nor is it evident at the present time that Russia is taking the opportunity to pursue a more active policy in the region. At the same time the issue of deploying Russian peacekeeping forces has been raised. But if this happens when the truce is constantly being violated, what sort of peacekeeping are we talking about? Our troops will once again find themselves between a rock and a hard place.

It is probably not Russian politicians' fault that the Army is the main instrument for settling military conflicts which politicians can then exploit. But it is quite clear that the Army cannot and should not be the only instrument. Its involvement is effective at the completion rather than the initial stage of a settlement, when it is necessary to ensure that the agreements which have been secured are carried out. However, the idea of using force to compel people to accept peace is a dangerous illusion. I am convinced that it will not work in Bosnia or in the post-Soviet area. Using the army without a consistent political and economic strategy for ensuring a settlement gives rise to far more problems than it solves.

### Zhirinovskiy Warns of Retaliation

*AU1002150394 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 9 Feb 94 pp 1,8*

[Interview with Russian Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy by Petra Prochazkova and Jaromir Stetina in Moscow; date not given: "The Czechs Will Clean the Boots of German Officers"]

[Text] The going rate for a three-minute interview with Russian Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is $100. We caught up with him at his general headquarters in the center of Moscow. The building's corridors are festooned with notice-boards covered in photographs of Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy]. Telegrams expressing gratitude and congratulations are displayed in front of the entrance to the grandiose office. Members of the Russian Party of the Crimea ask him to "assist historical justice and definitively affiliate the Crimea to Russia." The head of the secretariat explains that we must pay first and then we will be granted an interview. Russian journalists are exempt from the charge. After a two-hour wait, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy granted an exclusive interview to LIDOVE NOVINY and Czech Television. Free of charge.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Mr. Zhirinovskiy, have you received an invitation from anyone to visit the Czech Republic?

[Zhirinovskiy] You cannot imagine how many different invitations I receive. Yes, I received a fax from the Republican Party. I will be very happy to visit your country. Moreover, on 2 and 3 April we are organizing in Moscow a world congress of Slavic and Orthodox peoples. We will also invite politicians and deputies from the Czech lands.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What is your view of the talks on the possible bombing of Serb positions in Bosnia?

[Zhirinovskiy] I am opposed to any kind of force against the Serbs. I warn you, I view the bombing of Serb cities as if it were the bombing of Russian cities. This would absolutely alter Russia's foreign policy. If the bombing takes place, we will—of course—send protests to the countries whose pilots take part in it. We will warn them that what they are doing to Serb cities will be done to their countries. Bombs will be dropped on the cities of those countries that bomb Serb cities.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Apparently, you believe that the Czechs are not a full-fledged nation. At the same time, you want to visit our country. What is your attitude toward us?

[Zhirinovskiy] I declare that, regardless of the collapse of the USSR and the socialist camp, Russians enjoy the best of relations with all Slavs, including the Czechs. I know your films, culture, and products well, and I would not like there to be any animosity between Czechs and Russians. I invite all representatives of political parties, ministers, and deputies to our World Slavic Congress. After all, we are one people, one culture.... We have to put an end to the animosity that started after 1968.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Are you aware that there is a great deal of discussion in our country about your visit to the Czech Republic and that not everyone is favorably inclined toward it?

[Zhirinovskiy] It would be strange if everyone loved me. That is politics. Democracy. And do you think that everyone adores your Hasek? [as published]

I do not need to have everyone kissing my hand. For instance, in the Czech lands, people have a cooler

attitude toward me, while in Poland it is even hostile. Therefore, if Vaclav Havel is unhappy, then I am also unhappy that a playwrite can become the president of a country. I will not write the Cherry Orchard, I am not Chekhov. Why is a playwrite a president?

Your country is on the decline. I assure you that in 10 years from now, there will be no Moravia and no Sudetenland. In 10 years time, the entire Czech nation will curse Havel the way the Russian people are cursing Gorbachev. Everyone, including myself, applauded him. After Chernenko, Gorbachev was good to us. Now we curse this rogue. It will be the same with you. Vaclav Havel will die, and in 10 years young Czechs will curse him. They will be forced to speak German, to forget their mother tongue, to go to German churches, and to clean the boots of German officers. This is what will become of the Czechs in a few years from now. I am very sorry about this. Therefore, we want to talk to everyone at the congress of Slavic peoples. After all, there are 300 million of us and we will live together in an Eastern European Slavic community. We will not serve the West.

### Grachev Meets Germany's Naumann 14 Feb

*LD1402141794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspodent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 F[illegible]ussia is not in favor of rocket and bomb strikes [illegible] UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, Russian Defe[illegible]e Minister Pavel Grachev said today at a meeting with Klaus Naumann, inspector-general of the German Bundeswehr. General Nuamann is in Russia on an official visit at the invitation of the chief of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

Grachev spoke against the use of force in resolving the Bosnian problem. According to him, the experience of U.S. military actions in Vietnam and of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan proves that one must find political ways for resolving international disputes and overcoming armed conflicts.

Grachev thinks that if the bomb strikes are still carried out, no good will come of it. The Russian defense minister pointed out that, in any case, the Russian peacekeeping forces would remain in the former Yugoslavia and would continue their peacekeeping mission there.

### Discusses Partnership for Peace

*LD1402161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb—Russia and Germany may lead the way in ensuring European and world security. The prospects for bilateral military and political cooperation reveal such a possibility, it was stressed today at a meeting between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and General Klaus Naumann, the inspector general of the German Bundeswehr.

The Russian Defense Ministry, Grachev said at the meeting, supports the Partnership for Peace program. However, the Russian minister noted, there are different approaches to the implementation of the program. He believes that it is necessary to develop a mechanism for joining the partnership program. This requires an intermediate plan that would envisage the unification of European countries into political unions, with the CSCE playing the leading role both in the regions and on a bilateral basis.

The program of Naumann's visit to Russia is an intensive one. Tomorrow he will meet Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of staff for the coordination of military cooperation of the CIS member-states. During the visit, which ends on 18 February, he will also have meetings with First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff of the Russian Armed Forces. The German guest is to address students and instructors of the General Staff's military academy. He will visit troop units stationed on the outskirts of Moscow, the 27th Guards Division of Russian peace-keeping forces in the Volga military district, and also Volgograd and St. Petersburg.

### Views Troop Pullout From Germany

*LD1402164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—Germany and Russia are getting ready to celebrate the final withdrawal of all Russian troops from German territory, which should happen late this year.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, at a meeting with General Inspector of the German Bundeswehr Klaus Naumann, said Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl are working on the programme of the celebration.

Grachev hopes to discuss the details of the programme with the leadership of the Bundeswehr during his visit to Germany, which is scheduled to start March 9.

### Naumann Lays Wreath

*PM1502113594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Meeting at Russian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] General Klaus Naumann, Bundeswehr general inspector, arrived in Russia on an official visit 14 February.

On the same day he had a meeting with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister. During the

conversation they discussed a broad range of problems of pan-European security in the light of the worsening situation in the former Yugoslavia, along with questions of the peacekeeping activity of Russia and its Armed Forces and the prospects for the development of German-Russian cooperation, including military cooperation.

The Bundeswehr general inspector also met with Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

The German guest laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Wall.

## German Parliamentarian Visits State Duma

*LD1402234094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb—The first working contact has been established between the State Duma and the German Bundestag. This was the main result of a visit to Moscow by Karsten Voigt, chairman of the German-Russian group in the FRG parliament, which ended today.

The aim of the visit was to "establish links, immediately after the elections, with the political parties and groups in the State Duma that might become partners for FRG parliamentarians", Voigt noted in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Virtually the entire political spectrum in the Russian parliament, including the communists, was involved in his meetings. "As for Zhirinovskiy's party, it doesn't have any partners in the Bundestag. We hope that it will have none in the future either, although the elections to the FRG parliament in October this year might bring some surprises," the German parliamentarian stated.

We, he continued, requested that a group be formed as soon as possible from among those deputies who are dealing with the FRG on links with the Bundestag. "As vice president of the North Atlantic Assembly—the NATO parliament," Voigt stressed, "I also requested that a delegation be formed to take part in its work with the rights of an associated member". This request also met with agreement.

Representatives of the Russian parliament's committees for international issues and defense matters, he said, would take part in a seminar on security issues that the Assembly will hold in February this year.

Voigt expressed the conviction that the cooperation that was developing between the State Duma and the Bundestag would "make a contribution toward the strengthening of good-neighborly relations between Germany and Russia, which are not subject to opportunism and are not directed against the interests of third countries." He thinks it would be possible to discuss both issues of bilateral political and economic cooperation and pan-European security problems during regular meetings.

## Berlin Plan for Army Farewells 'Discriminatory'

*PM1502112994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Vadim Markushin report: "Do Not Create a New Cordon Sanitaire"]

[Text] The decision by the Berlin Senat to hold a ceremonial send-off for the Russian motorized infantry brigade separately from the other foreign contingents which are leaving Berlin this year has been seen as political. In the same breath people are saying that it was dictated by the expectations of West Berliners, who retain feelings of gratitude to the countries which supported the city materially at the height of the Cold War.

Just who in particular "expects" this is impossible to determine, of course. It all reminds you of the well-worn cliche: "The general opinion is that...."

Meanwhile, questions are being asked. Why, for example, has a decision on such an important matter, which should certainly not be "kept within the family," been made by the Berlin authorities? Why was the decision not made by representatives of the governments of the countries of the former anti-Hitler coalition in conjunction with the German Federal Government? Why are attempts being made to split reunited Berlin again by artificially resurrecting these old antagonisms? After all, whatever reservations may surround the aforementioned "policy decision," it is basically a discriminatory measure against our victorious army, our country, and our people.

This is how things look: At the time when the vast machinery involved in withdrawing the Western Group of Forces had only just begun to roll and nothing but hard work could be seen on the road ahead, Russian servicemen were buoyed up by speeches about a new era and a new partnership. Now, however, when all that was needed was a kind and sincere word of farewell, they are having to look awkwardly over their shoulders and scrutinize those gloomy times in search of reasons to justify their own inconsistency.

And all this at a time when a joint ceremonial send-off would appear to offer the most natural ground for strengthening the partnership, mutual liking, and personal contacts that are being established. A failure to take advantage of this event just to pander to someone's nearsightedness and capriciousness would be unpardonable.

### Envoy Comments on Ukraine Disarmament Talks

*MK1202104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Talks" rubric: "Russian-Ukrainian Nuclear Missile Marathon Continues. Kiev Is Ready To Get Rid of the Weapons, But After Some Bargaining"]

[Text] This week a high-ranking delegation including Yuriy Dubinin, special envoy and chief of the Russian Federation state delegation to talks with Ukraine; Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov; and Colonel General Yevgeniy Maslin, from the 12th Main Directorate of the Defense Ministry, held difficult talks in Kiev on specific measures to eliminate Ukrainian nuclear weapons.

Upon returning to Moscow, Ambassador Yuriy Dubinin told your SEGODNYA correspondent that "we have agreed on the content of the document that will enable us to implement the agreements on eliminating nuclear arms in Ukraine, which were reached by Presidents Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Clinton on 14 January." Presently, the results of the talks are being "reported" to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. According to official reports, however, President Yeltsin has caught a cold and is currently inaccessible.

Meanwhile, the Russian and Ukrainian delegations agreed that until the results achieved in Kiev are approved, no details about the process of the talks should be made public. No press conferences. It was disclosed, however, that they had "entirely substantive talks in Kiev" that were held in "a constructive and businesslike atmosphere." Translated from diplomatic-speak into plain language, this usually means a tough showdown.

The Kiev military and political establishment had long ago decided in principle to get rid of what it sees as costly, dangerous, and rather useless nuclear weapons, but the bargaining over the deal's specifics is set to be long and tedious.

### U.S. Commander Arrives To Prepare for Joint Exercise

*PM1402155594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Manki Ponomarev report: "Preparations for Exercise Gaining Momentum"]

[Text] William Perry, the new U.S. defense secretary, recently addressed the International Conference on Security Questions, confirming that a joint Russian-U.S. exercise is to be held in July as scheduled to rehearse collaboration in peacekeeping operations. Some of the forces of the Russian 27th Motorized Rifle Division in the Volga Military District and the U.S. 3d Mechanized Division stationed in Germany will be involved in the exercise.

Preparations for this, the first joint exercise in the history of the two armies, are gaining momentum. The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editorial office learned that General Leonard Holder, commander of the U.S. 3d Division, is arriving in Russia Sunday 13 February. After a brief stopover in Moscow he will head off to the Volga Military District, where the exercise will be held, and will meet there with Major General Anatoliy Sidyakin, commander of the Russian 27th Division.

The coming exercise will be a command-staff exercise. It is thought that around 250 men on each side will be involved in it—officers from both armies' divisions, regiments, and battalions.

### 'ITAR-TASS U.S.A.' Begins Operations

*LD1402225994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York February 14 TASS—The Russian-American corporation ITAR-TASS U.S.A. started functioning in the United States. Its main tasks include the spreading in the North American Free Trade Zone of complete and reliable first-hand information about the developments in the political, economic and cultural life of Russia and other CIS member states and the promoting of contacts between political, business and academic circles of the two countries.

The corporation was founded by the ITAR-TASS, the central news agency of Russia, and the U.S. company Kassengen Associates, which is actively operating on the CIS market. ITAR-TASS will supply subscribers as promptly as possible with various materials, including texts of presidential decrees, government resolutions, daily reports, analytical materials, business information bulletins and news about science, culture and sports. In its turn, Kassengen Associates, which has much experience in dealing with local business people, will help with the marketing of information products of the news agency.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1330 GMT on 14 February provides the following contact telephone numbers for ITAR-TASS U.S.A.: New York—(212) 245-4250; Los Angeles—(800) 678-0616; and Moscow—(095) 229-64-03]

### Zhirinovskiy Wants Revision of Post-War Border

*AU1102140594 Munich DEUTSCHE NATIONAL-ZEITUNG in German 11 Feb 94 pp 3-5*

["Second part" of interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The Key Is Equal Rights"]

[Text] [Correspondent] The fire of the international opinion industry against you keeps mounting and is

gradually turning into an inferno, which has hardly been conceivable before. For the past few days you have not been accused of plans to destroy Germany but of something much worse in the eyes of the mass media: You would welcome it if the Oder-Neisse line were revised and Germany got back its eastern parts, including Stettin [Szczecin], Danzig [Gdansk], Koenigsberg [Kaliningrad], and Breslau [Wroclaw]. Moreover, you want to give Poland access to the sea between Gdansk and Kaliningrad and, at the same time, expand Poland eastward with the area around Lemberg [Lvov] as compensation. A revision of the injustice of the deportation of the east Germans is certainly the worst that the tabloid press in Germany can imagine. After all, how these people have suffered because of the unification of FRG and GDR!

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes, this was certainly a terrible shock for the enemies of the Germans. I have been involved in geopolitics ever since my youth. I am also the chairman of the Geopolitical Committee of the Russian parliament, the Duma. Naturally, I think very much about just solutions. A U.S. president once said that nothing is settled that is not settled justly. Why should it not be permitted to discuss a revision, that is, a completely peaceful solution for eastern Germany, which would conform to international law and would be achieved by means of negotiations? Why should a lesser law be applied to the German people? After all, it is not as though Poland has derived any benefit from Germany's eastern areas and that eastern Germany is now a flourishing land. Such considerations cannot be taboo any more. I rely on a healthy and strong, self-confident, sovereign, and once again German Germany as an equal partner with Russia.

[Correspondent] You have also commented on the problem of South Tirol.

[Zhirinovskiy] So much is being talked about the right to self-determination. Hardly anyone in the world will doubt that the South Tiroleans are Germans. No one will want to deny that about three-quarters of the population of South Tirol belong to the German ethnic Group and the Ladinian ethnic group, which is closely linked to the German group. Why should this issue not best be settled by the voters, as in the Crimea? Why do we not let ourselves be guided by democratic principles?

[Correspondent] How do you see the development of democracy in Central Europe?

[Zhirinovskiy] To what extent is it a democracy and to what extent is it a media democracy? To what extent do the masses of the voters decide and to what extent are decisions made by a few thousand journalists, some of whom bitterly hate their fatherland? To what extent does the law decide whether undesirable events are permitted, and to what extent is this decision made by a few thousand bandits of the so-called autonomous scene? The state is strong enough to show criminals their place. Desired rallies take place without problems. The rule-of-law state is called upon to punish criminal gangs, which are specialized in terror against rallies.

[Correspondent] The judiciary in our country is overtaxed when, half a century after World War II, it is still having to pursue proceedings against more than 8,000 accused on the defeated side for war crimes or Nazi crimes that were committed half a century ago or more.

[Zhirinovskiy] What is the purpose of that supposed to be? How is one supposed to reach just judgments such a long time after the alleged deeds? These defendants must be very old and seriously ill. How can a clever and intelligent people like the German people permit this to be done to it? Germany must be freed from this Babylonian captivity, and it can be freed by Russia as a partner and a friend, by a Russia that loves the Germans.

[Correspondent] Such statements....

[Zhirinovskiy] ...will increase the hatred of the anti-German opinion industry against me.

[Correspondent] It is implied that you do not want to withdraw Russian troops from Germany but increase them by a factor of 10.

[Zhirinovskiy] Quite the contrary: I have repeatedly demanded that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Germany. I cannot understand that, on the one hand, the Bundeswehr is to be reduced and, on the other hand, U.S. soldiers, British, French, Belgians, Dutch, and even 100 Canadians are to remain stationed in Germany. Do the German people expect any protection by a few tens of thousands of foreign soldiers? Naturally, Germany needs effective, strong armed forces, but it needs German armed forces. Anyone who does not want to afford a sufficiently strong army of his own incurs the danger of having a foreign army put into his country.

And what is the purpose of splitting the Bundeswehr into multinational units, in particular under foreign command? Why is the German army not solely subordinate to a German General Staff? After all, the Germans certainly need not be ashamed of their soldiers and their military tradition.

[Correspondent] The opinion industry does not like your views at all.

[Zhirinovksiy] Yes, unfortunately this is true. But the Germans must understand that I, as a Russian, pursue a Russian policy, and that I love the Russian people and also the German people. What kind of a Russian would I be, if I were to pursue an anti-Russian policy and the carving up of Russia? When I advocate a large and strong Russia, I do not want to build up any conflict with Washington. But having several great powers, to which Russia and others belong, in addition to Germany and the United States, is better for the world than a single globocop, to whose tune the world dances.

Equal rights in the family of peoples and states is the key to real partnership. I abhor war and any kind of military conflict, but I am for the peoples' right to self-determination. When, for instance, the people in the Crimea, in free self-determination and in democratic elections, are of an opinion that differs from the one of the Ukrainian Khrushchev, who "gave" the Crimea to Ukraine, for me it is the opinion of the people that counts and not the decision of a dictator.

[Correspondent] Attempts are being made to present you to the people as an opponent or even an enemy of President Yeltsin.

[Zhirinovskiy] But this is not so at all. I respect and value President Yeltsin, and this is mutual. President Yeltsin may occasionally make mistakes, but he wants the best for Russia. I was not involved at all in the putsch against him and, as is generally known; I had nothing to do with it. By the way, at that time I was with the German People's Union in the Nibelungen Hall [in Passau].

[Correspondent] But you have a constructive and not at all hostile or even just opposition relationship with the Russian communists in the Duma.

[Zhirinovskiy] The communists in the Duma are in no way responsible for what happened under Stalin. Today's Russians and today's Germans should live and work and shape their future freely and completely free of the burden of the pasts. Today's Russian communists are, by the way, honorable people and not traitors who served a foreign power at some time in the past. Why should we dig artificial trenches and establish contradictions in the current, terrible situation in Russia, which reminds us of Germany's situation after the war.

[Correspondent] If no miracle happens, and no murder or any other evil deed prevents it, you will be Russia's next president. How will you tackle the country's internal problems?

[Zhirinovskiy] We will pursue a mixture of well thought-out planned economy and moderate market economy and give the people in Russia hope and work again; we will stop inflation and help the Russians to live a dignified life. Within three months I will destroy the several hundred mafia gangs that dominate business in our country by, among other things, so-called protection money, and every kind of serious criminals, who make our streets unsafe, with the entire rigor of the law and a police force that is free of any corruption. Law and order must be restored. I guarantee it. And the Russians know that.

## Brazilian Magazine Interviews Zhirinovskiy

*PY1102220994 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 9 Feb 94 pp 7-9*

[Interview with Russian Liberal Democrat Deputy Volfovich Zhirinovskiy by Vivien Lando in Moscow "shortly before leaving for a tour of the Balkans"]

[Text] [Lando] What explanation do you have for the good results obtained by your party, the Liberal Democratic Party, during the recent election?

[Zhirinovskiy] Our party is completely new and we have an open and realistic program. I emphasize three issues: First, end all economic aid to the former USSR republics; second, interrupt the reconversion of the military industry for civilian purposes; and third, adopt tight measures against crime. Only by doing this will we be able to improve the living standards of the entire country. Moreover, I was never a communist and that is in my favor.

[Lando] Your adversaries claim that if you had not been a Communist Party member you would not have made the career that you made. Is it possible?

[Zhirinovskiy] I have never been a communist, and I am happy with that. That is precisely what helped me and what is still helping me now, because all the other leaders of our party are old Communist Party members.

[Lando] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak said you are a former KGB agent, and that the Soviet political police created your party to bother Boris Yeltsin.

[Zhirinovskiy] Never. All that is propaganda. Just like they say that I am a Zionist, anti-Jewish, a member of the radical right or left, or Jewish. Nothing of the sort. I am Russian, Russian, Russian.

[Lando] You were elected thanks to a million-dollar campaign, by Russian standards, with expenses surpassing $800,000. Who sponsored that financial support?

[Zhirinovskiy] Everyone. Two years ago, in the elections for president, I received more than 6 million votes. If each one of them had given me 1,000 rubles, I would have had 6 billion rubles, which is equivalent to approximately $3.5 million. Everybody? We receive money through the mail. But I will not disclose the name of the main sponsors: Secrecy is the essence of business.

[Lando] What are the grounds for your criticism of U.S. foreign policy?

[Zhirinovskiy] We believe the U.S. people are good-natured. And this is the reason why they should stop meddling in world affairs. I warn President Bill Clinton: Do not repeat the mistakes of Napoleon and Hitler. The United States will soon begin to deteriorate because of its ethnic conflicts. It then will have its own perestroyka, with its degradation and iniquities. We, the Russians, will not hail the day when the United States stops being united, when factories stop, when there is no more food and medicine, and when all the U.S. people migrate to Russia, Europe, or Japan. The United States exists simply because it robbed Latin America and Africa. It became rich with two world wars and because, over the past 50 years, it took the best brains—almost all U.S. mathematicians are Russian Jews.

[Lando] Can you give your opinion on some outstanding figures in Russian history, beginning with Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Zhirinovskiy] Very weak and very naive.

[Lando] Leonid Brezhnev.

[Zhirinovskiy] A selfish person who lived only for his own family and himself, but not for Russia.

[Lando] Stalin.

[Zhirinovskiy] Rude and criminal.

[Lando] Lenin.

[Zhirinovskiy] Magnificent. A genius, as a theoretician. A wise man, but a failure as a politician.

[Lando] What was the best and the worst of the communist government during the USSR's existence?

[Zhirinovskiy] There were many victims; we lost 60 million people. It is absurd. But there are positive things in the economy—the construction sector, the schools. Even with that, the balance is negative.

[Lando] In your autobiography, you say that Russia's natural borders are the Indian Ocean. To implement this idea, it would be necessary to conquer several countries, among them Afghanistan. Are you proposing a colonial war?

[Zhirinovskiy] We are not against the existing borders. But since they are being changed, we want to return to Russia's historical, natural borders; obviously, through peaceful methods, through our economic links. We will thus be able to satisfy the desires of people who live next to our borders and who are anxious to once again be part of Russia.

[Lando] You also dream of putting the countries of the old Soviet bloc in East Europe under Moscow's control?

[Zhirinovskiy] I am for solidarity between Slav countries: We are neighbors and we have the same economic and cultural background. But I want a union without military interference and without one country dominating the others. The government should not be exercised from Moscow. The center can be located in Prague, Sofia, or Warsaw.

[Lando] You said on many occasions that you would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons. Are you ready to press the button?

[Zhirinovskiy] I will never use nuclear weapons, and I am against the use of even conventional arms. It is like using violence against a woman: It is a crime. The same thing happens between states and peoples. I prefer dialogue.

[Lando] What is your opinion of the comparison made between your ideas and the fascist ideology?

[Zhirinovskiy] It's mere propaganda aimed at reducing my influence on voters. Rather than harming me, it ends up helping me because many Russian say: "If the chief of the party for whom we voted is a fascist and if the party for which we voted is fascist, then we are also fascist." The result is the opposite of what they sought. I must thank them for it.

[Lando] Do you think democracy can work in countries of continental size like Brazil and Russia?

[Zhirinovskiy] Very slowly. It can succeed in the long term, but not now.

[Lando] Would you agree to an alliance with communists?

[Zhirinovskiy] I might use some communists as ministers. But by no means a totally communist government. The ideal is to give 10 percent to Communists, 10 percent to Radical Democrats, 10 percent to other parties, and 70 percent for us.

[Lando] Why didn't you engage in the White House battle in October 1993, when Yeltsin dissolved the conservative congress?

[Zhirinovskiy] It was not our war. It was a war between red and pink communists. I am not a communist; I am a democrat.

[Lando] What does Russia expect from the West?

[Zhirinovskiy] Nothing! We do not need any help from the West. And we beg, leave us alone. That is the best thing they can do for us.

[Lando] Why don't you believe in Western help?

[Zhirinovskiy] There is no help at all. It's all lies. They send old clothes, spoiled canned food that no one wants to eat. Send cars, because we do not need rags!

[Lando] You have proposed redividing the world in areas of influence, like during the Cold War. Only this time it will be a North-South division. How does that work?

[Zhirinovskiy] Why should the United States meddle with European affairs? Let it take care of Latin America; let Europe take care of Africa; let China and Japan to take care of Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; and let Russia take care of Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. This vertical domination will produce a good, warm climate all over the world. We will spend less in transportation, communications. Fewer planes will fly, thus making air and water cleaner, and the environment will be preserved. I might live in just one city, my Alma-Ata.

[Lando] Some people believe you are trying to become rapidly rich because you know that your presence on the political stage will be brief.

[Zhirinovskiy] No, I am not interested in money, women, alcohol, or drugs. I am only interested in my country. I want to see the honest eyes of my voters while they call me Vladimir and kiss my hand (he makes the gesture).

[Lando] Is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy a hero?

[Zhirinovskiy] Possibly, because this new era calls for a leader. The people need a center behind which to close ranks, a star in the sky, the moon in the middle of the night. Under this viewpoint, I might be mythical. It is not because I want it, but because the people want it.

[Lando] Do you think it is possible to be optimistic in Russia?

[Zhirinovskiy] Of course. Our country has marked history with its heroism. It has a big bright area and various climates. We play an essential role in the world. Neither Africa, nor Latin America, nor Asia have such significance. Only France, Germany, Great Britain, and Russia.

## Political & Media Issues

### Yeltsin Rumored 'Very Seriously Ill'

*MK1502093594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 2*

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—According to information from competent sources, the chiefs of major commercial enterprises are worried over stubborn rumors about Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's being very seriously ill. According to information allegedly received from people around the president, Boris Yeltsin has a serious pneumonia, which called for hemodialysis [gemodializ], rather than a slight cold as the president's press service maintains. According to experts, these rumors were provoked by U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement about a "technical impossibility" of contacting the Russian Federation president.

### Address to Parliament Postponed

*LD1502142694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] RIA has learned that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's address to deputies of the Federal Assembly planned for Friday [18 February] was postponed to 24 February. A source close to the president, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the formal reason for the postponement could be the fact that the Kremlin's Marble Hall is not ready to hold such an event. However, it is not ruled out that the text of the annual address of the president may undergo some changes. At today's session of the Russian State Duma's Committee on Budget, its chairman, Mikhail Zadornov, told deputies that they could become acquainted with the text of the address, which had been received by the Duma.

### Secrecy Over Illness Questioned

*PM1402211594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 2*

[Aleksandr Bykovskiy "Observer's Comments": "A Propos the Cold"]

[Text] When the current political elite began its ascent of the Mount Olympus of Russian politics at the end of the eighties it on the whole justly criticized many practices which existed in the Soviet Union. Amongst the most often cited sins in this regard was the absolute secrecy surrounding the personal life of the country's top officials, their health...

Since then only six or seven years have passed. But how much has changed! (Admittedly, we won't specify here in which direction this has been). However, the changes have scarcely really affected the aforementioned "delicate" question. People may object to this by saying that only last week the Russian president's administration reported that the president was working in his out-of-town residence because he was suffering from a cold.

All true: A report was issued and requisite explanation furnished. But this can hardly be regarded as adequate or exhaustive in a situation where the head of state is involved, particularly as we Russians have been continually urged by top officials in recent years to follow the example of "civilized" countries. Let's look at how such questions are resolved over there in the West and the United States, in particular.

The president's health, I read in an publicity handout specially prepared for President Clinton's visit to Moscow, is a significant indicator to Americans. When they vote in elections for a particular candidate they want to see not just that the future head of state's election manifesto meets their interests, they also want to see, the authors of the publicity handout specially stress this, a new White House incumbent who is vigorous, active, and undoubtedly healthy.

It is not surprising when the U.S. president is ill that journalists lay siege to the physicians who are treating him. And they answer numerous questions. Experts on American life claim that medical confidentiality does not exist in this instance.

However, while citing the American example I have no doubt at all that in a matter of days Boris Yeltsin's health will be restored and he will be delivering a message to the deputies of the Federal Assembly. So there would seem to be no special need to blow up the topic of the Russian president's suffering from a cold, there wouldn't be but for a radio report: Speaking to journalists, the American president complained that for some unknown technical reasons he had been unable to speak to Boris Yeltsin by telephone for two days.

The conversation between the presidents did, as you will know, eventually take place. However, it was somewhat late, in my opinion: After all, just a few days ago Bill Clinton was still wondering whether it was worthwhile for NATO to bomb Serbian positions near Sarajevo, while now it seems he is ready to support the NATO decision.

And the question is a really crucial one. If NATO starts bombing the Serbs, this will inevitably lead to heavy civilian casualties. Many military specialists, including Russian ones, have pointed out this danger. Moreover, there are serious fears that the possible bombing could be the start of World War III...

Incidentally, the (U.S.) White House press secretary already knows by 0800 hours the president's whole schedule for the next 24 hours and can comment on much that is of interest to journalists.

And I have no doubt that if circumstances forced Clinton to leave for his out-of-town residence at Camp David,

his press secretary would promptly and as fully as possible satisfy the far-from-idle interest in this event on the part of the mass media.

But what about in our country? In Russia we are beset by a very grave socioeconomic crisis; the number of strikes is growing; miners, gas, communications, agricultural workers and representatives of other sectors are demanding that the government settle its debts; conflicts are blazing in danagerous proximity to our country—and we have silence! No one in the president's large administration takes the trouble to explain whether these questions come within the president's purview or whether they are being resolved.

### Yeltsin Signs Edict on Personnel Policy Council

*LD1502112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Moscow February 15 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed on February 12 Decree No 298 "on the department of the president's federal civil service" to provide organizational and technical services to the president's Personnel Policy Council, hold a federal personnel data bank, and provide analytical support of the development and implementation of the state personnel policy in the federal bodies of executive power and federal establishments and organizations.

The department will be headed by Aleksandr M. Kurbatov, the executive secretary of the president's Personnel Policy Council.

### Fedorov: Government in 'Confusion,' Lacks Plan

*LD1402171394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—The government is in confusion and has no clear-cut plan of activity, former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday [14 February], Fedorov said that the government adopts political decisions but has no means to carry them out.

Fedorov described the figures in the proposed budget for 1994 as unrealistic and accused the government of lack of political will in order to reduce unjustified expenses.

He also criticised the government for making concessions to coal miners and blasted the agrarian lobby for extorting state subsidies for the agro-industrial complex. Fedorov warned that this will only fuel inflation.

He denied that he delayed the payment of state debts in December 1993 in order to curb inflation.

### Poll Finds Zhirinovskiy Not Solution to Crisis

*MK1202100094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Oleg Savelyev, All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion sociologist: "Rating Falls. This Time, on Zhirinovskiy"]

[Text] The All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion conducted a representative poll between 10 January and 2 February 1994 among 3,977 residents of Russia.

The answers to one of the questions in this survey—Do Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's activities help the emergence out of today's crisis?—is in percentages:

They do—11
They do not—43
They make no appreciable impact—11
Hard to say—35

Those who believe that Zhirinovskiy's activities facilitate a way out of the crisis are relatively more often workers and generally men (twice as many as women), persons below 30 years of age with an education less than secondary, with the lowest monthly incomes per one family member and living in a rural area and in Russia's south.

Those who, on the contrary, believe that the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader's activities are not helping resolve the crisis are more often than not entrepreneurs running their own businesses, managers of various ranks, women generally, and people below 30 (responding to this question, they have the greatest number of both positive and negative answers and the smallest number of neutral answers), with a higher, unfinished higher education, with high and medium per capita incomes, who live in capitals, big cities, and in the Urals.

Thus, the forecasts that Zhirinovskiy would augment the support received in the elections are not coming true.

### Journalists Threaten Boycott on Government News

*AU1402192194 Paris AFP in English 1910 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Moscow, Feb 14 (AFP)—Russian journalists will boycott news involving the government if Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin refuses to pay government subsidies owed to the media, their spokesman announced on Monday [14 February].

The threat was made at a news conference here by Anatoly Ezhelev, president of the Emergency Committee for the Protection of the Press.

The committee, formed last month by the Union of Russian Journalists, called on the government to take urgent measures to "save freedom of the press" by

paying debts and subsidies it owes to state radio and television, as well as the country's largest newspapers.

"People's right to receive news has become very expensive," said Ivan Laptev, president of Izvestia publishing house.

President of Russian state radio-television Oleg Popchov said that the relationship between journalists and the government amounts to "a dialogue of the deaf."

Half of Russia went without television programming on Thursday after communications companies went on strike over the government's refusal to pay an 80-billion ruble ($50 million) debt. The strike ended when the prime minister promised to pay the debt.

### Seek To Secure 'Economic Survival'

*LD1402160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—Journalists are going to continue the struggle for their economic survival, heads of journalists' unions of Russia and Moscow, the Glasnost Protection Fund and other organisations announced today at a press conference of the Committee for Emergency Measures to Protect the Press.

The immediate reason for calling the press conference was the situation at the TV. However, there are many other problems to be discussed. Journalists, who are considered the fourth power in Russia, insist that the government should keep the promises it gave to them, specifically, the January resolution dealing with providing support for the publication and circulation of mass media organs.

Oleg Poptsov, head of the Russian TV company, said that by today the government had decided to allocate to state-owned TV companies 51 per cent of the money they need. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated 18 per cent of what they need, without taking into account their debt to communication services in 1993. Poptsov regards the step taken by communication workers as a call for a general political strike and is sure that three days without radio and TV will be enough for the country to get out of control.

According to Anatoliy Yezhelev, chairman of the Committee for Emergency Measures to Protect the Press, journalists intend to display solidarity, defending their professional interests and the right of citizens to information. It is quite probable that another stoppage of TV and radio broadcasting will be followed by a call for the information boycott of the government's work.

Measures, suggested to the government by the Federal Committee for the Press, may change radically the economic situation of the press. According to chairman of the committee Boris Mironov, these include tax privileges, the granting of easy-term credits, the exemption from customs duties of the imported printing equipment and paper, etc. Vsevolod Bogdanov, chairman of the Russian Journalists' Union, believes that the state should take upon itself the legal protection of journalists and guarantee their access to information.

Heads of journalists' unions are going to insist on the keeping of promises. Editors-in-chief will have a meeting tonight with press secretary of the president Vyacheslav Kostikov, where they will discuss problems of journalists, Bogdanov told ITAR-TASS.

### Kostikov Promises Editors Meeting With Yeltsin

*LD1402185894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, has promised editors of central newspapers assistance in holding another meeting with the Russian Federation president. It is likely to take place in late February or early March, depending on the president's working schedule.

This was one of the main upshots of the conversation that Kostikov had today with editors in chief of leading publications. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the president's press secretary clarified that the meeting was called for by the growing concern of the media over "the abnormal situation in the press market".

"Newspapers are going bankrupt, and complex contradictions have emerged between the striving of newspapers to be independent and the understanding of the fact that the press will not survive without assistance from the state", he said. According to Kostikov, "it is necessary to find a precise combination of state aid to the press without infringing upon glasnost".

The head of state's press secretary added that the purpose of the meeting is to obtain first-hand, critical information that should be made known to the Russian Federation president.

## Military Issues

### Chief of General Staff Said To Resign

*MK1502090094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Chief of General Staff Hands in Resignation"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has come to learn that Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Defense Ministry General Staff, handed in a request to resign before last weekend.

The chief of the General Staff sent the request to Supreme Commander Boris Yeltsin right after Kolesnikov had met with Pavel Grachev in person. In requesting his resignation, the colonel general writes that he wants no part in the further disintegration of the Russian Armed Forces. It is still unknown for how long the president will consider the request. Consultative meetings of Yeltsin with Grachev, his deputies, and commanders of combat arms are being planned already this week, however, where the question of the resignation of the chief of the General Staff will no doubt be raised.

### Creation of New Mobile Forces Planned

*MK1202093094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 1*

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "President Yeltsin's Mobile Soldiers. Army Will Deal With Terrorism"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from government sources that the Defense Ministry's elaboration of a statute on mobile forces is going full blast. To be created within the ministry's structure is a Mobile Forces directorate to be headed by a commander in chief of the Mobile Forces of Russia. He will probably be subordinated directly to the president.

This step would at least probably enable the Russian Army to come closer to the combat readiness standard of the Soviet Army, which as little as five years ago was capable of simultaneously landing two airborne divisions with all their equipment at any point on the globe.

The idea for the creation of mobile forces was first proposed by Colonel General Achalov, who commanded the airborne troops and who now is a Lefortovo prisoner. Gen. Achalov came forward with sensational proposals at a closed-door military-scientific conference in summer 1991, taking stock of the Persian Gulf war. It was also then that he was appointed to what was at the time a new position in the army—deputy defense minister for emergency situations and special tasks. After a brief hiatus owing to the activities of Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the last defense minister of the USSR, the mobile forces concept began to be carried out as a strategic direction of organizational development of the Russian Army.

Airborne Troops Commander Yevgeniy Podkolzin said in a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS interview last summer that the mobile forces would consist of immediate reaction forces and rapid deployment forces. The former are supposed to react inside 24 hours, while the latter are allowed three days to get their act together.

After the New Year, the organizational development of Mobile Forces started to pick up pace. To be completely absorbed by the Mobile Forces are the Airborne Troops and the Military Transport Aviation, whose main headquarters are located a stone's throw away from each other on Matrosskaya Tishina. Attached to the airborne troops were a number of more battle worthy units including the brigade from Teplyy Stan [a Moscow neighborhood] that was in the past belonged to the KGB. Being transferred from military districts are units and formations that are capable of getting ready to move within 24 hours.

The tasks of the new troops consist in carrying out subversion and peacemaking operations, providing cover for nuclear facilities, preventing the use of nuclear weapons, and even the carrying out of special operations to combat terrorism, organized crime, and nonconventional armed structures.

The importance of the Airborne Troops in the army has sharply increased. The Airborne Troops command actually is already now a high command. Yevgeniy Podkolzin was one of the few people invited to Boris Yeltsin's birthday party. No Airborne Troops subunit can be alerted without the president's personal directive.

Direct training of crews will begin in summer 1994. In fall 1994, the first serious exercises of the new troops may be held. At any rate, all depends on the spring draft that will man the subunits. If there are no soldiers, there is no army.

### More on Defense Ministry Plans

*MK1202122094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 5*

[Ilya Bulavinov report under "Russia's Military Development Program" rubric: "The Russian Army Will Become Smaller but More Mobile"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Defense Ministry hopes as early as this year to resolve one of the main strategic tasks—to reach understanding with the former USSR republics and, as far as possible, conclude with them bilateral agreements on creating Russian military bases on their territory. The total number of bases and Russian military servicemen will be specified. As for the other units and formations, in spite of the difficulties involved in redeploying and stationing troops, it is planned to begin their withdrawal this year.

It is deemed expedient to start transferring military districts to the territorial command and control principle: in other words, district commanders will become sole masters of the troops located on their territory regardless of their branch. This should enhance the effectiveness of troop command and control because commanders will have greater operational command powers in the event of aggression on the part of other states. In 1994 it is planned to complete theoretical work in this sphere (to be subsequently approved by the president) and as of next year, this plan will begin to be implemented starting with the Far East region.

By 1995 it is planned to complete the process of downsizing the armed forces. According to Pavel Grachev, "the ultimate limit" will be an army of 2 million men, which responds to the country's security interests and its

economic capabilities. Given that after last fall's call-up (i.e., by January 1995) the Defense Ministry is hoping to man the army by 85 to 90 percent, the real troop strength will approximate 1.8 million.

Owing to the need to have small but battleworthy and mobile units capable of promptly arriving at a conflict point in any part of the country, the Defense Ministry intends to finalize the elaboration of operational plans for a new type of operational-strategic formation—the mobile forces.

Bodies responsible for contacts with personnel will also be reformed. In addition to the deputy commander in charge of indoctrination, a psychological, legal, and sociological service will be created in the troops. The Main Personnel Directorate will be reorganized as the Indoctrination Directorate.

## Energy & Space Issues

### Submarine Reactors May Be Used To Supply Energy

*LD1502073894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[Text] Vladivostok February 15 TASS—Under conditions of a severe energy crisis the Administration of the Maritime Region decided to look into possibilities of the use of nuclear reactors installed on board submarines of the Russian Pacific Fleet for energy supplies to the regional centre.

A conference attended by representatives of the regional administration, the Pacific Fleet and Far Eastern scientific institutions was held in Vladivostok on Tuesday to discuss technical and economic aspects of this unusual project.

Experts believe that the high quality of domestic technologies and a guaranteed system of maintenance will ensure full radiation and ecological safety of the population.

Representatives of the fleet said that the energy potential of one submarine is enough to ensure energy supplies to no lees than 50 big apartment houses.

### Discovery Shuttle With U.S.-Russian Crew Lands

*LD1102221294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2102 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow 11 February TASS—The U.S. and Russian ground mission control centers applauded today as the Discovery shuttle spacecraft carrying a U.S.-Russian crew on board successfully landed today at the Kennedy Space Center.

Charles Bolden, Ken Reightler, Franklin Chang-Diaz, Jan Davis, Ronald Sega and Sergey Krikalev spent slightly more than eight days in space and returned to the earth at 22:19 (Moscow time). The landing was postponed by almost two hours due to bad weather.

The crew conducted 35 scientific experiments in the sphere of material science, medicine and biology with the use of the spacehab laboratory and an installation for the production of super-clean thin films. The research was made to order of scientific and industrial organizations of the U.S. and Russia.

The flight is the first stage in the bilateral Mir-shuttle program, which will continue to the planned Alfa International orbiting station after several joint flights.

As for the immediate plans, a flight of Vladimir Titov (whose back-up is Sergey Krikalev) with a joint crew on board the U.S. shuttle is scheduled for January 1995. Titov is training at the Johnson Center (Houston, U.S.A.). Both U.S. astronauts, whose flight is scheduled for March 1, 1995, with the 18th main expedition of the Mir orbiting station have started training this week.

Bonnie Dunbar, the wife of U.S. astronaut Ronald Sega, and Norman Thagard are training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut training Center, the Moscow region.

### Shuttle Program Ends in 'Failure'

*PM1402162394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Krikalev's Debut on 'Discovery' Was Successful, But the Satellite's Debut was Not"]

[Text] The landing of the "Discovery" space shuttle at the Canaveral space center at 2050 on 11 February marks the end of the first ever flight when U.S. astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut have been members of the same crew. Unfortunately, the attempts to place the "Wake Shield" satellite in orbit ended in failure. Sergey Krikalev was going to work with the satellite, which had been carried in the cargo bay.

The satellite was to have moved to a distance of 75 km from the space shuttle. At that distance, with no microgravitation at all and no effect from the station's exhaust gases, there would have been an experiment to grow extremely pure semiconductor films for new-generation computers. But the guidance system of the manipulator, which would have been used to move the satellite, turned out tc be faulty.

This failure is very regrettable, since this faulty manipulator will be used to assemble the components of the "Alfa" international station when it is created. After many attempts the astronauts did manage to obtain seven laminated electronic components of reasonable quality in the satellite factory, but they were not as fine as had been expected.

According to the U.S. specialists, Sergey Krikalev performed very well, despite the relative failure of the main experiment. Any aberrations in the operation of the vehicle were instantly eliminated by our engineer.

In a year's time a second Russian cosmonaut—Colonel Vladimir Titov—will fly in the shuttle. During this flight the shuttle will approach our "Mir" station for the first time and Titov will perform a spacewalk. A docking between "Mir" and the shuttle is planned for spring 1995. Incidentally, this week U.S. astronauts Norman Thagard, 51, and Bonnie Dunbar, 45 (wife of astronaut Ronald Sega, who was on the "Discovery" flight), started training sessions at the Cosmonaut Training Center near Moscow. The long flight by a U.S. astronaut on the Russian "Mir" station is to begin on 1 March 1995.

## Federal Assembly

### Duma Official Criticizes Use of Force in Bosnia

*LD1402131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—"The Bosnian conflict cannot be resolved by means of force," said Viktor Ustinov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Issues of Geopolitics.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Ustinov expressed concern over the notorious ultimatum made by NATO countries, saying that the use of force against Bosnian Serbs cannot bring military operations in former Yugoslavia to an end. "There is a threat that air-strikes on Serbian positions around Sarajevo might be followed by intervention of NATO troops into Bosnia," Ustinov said.

Ustinov believes that in order to prevent the conflict from being raised to a higher level of confrontation all peace-keeping forces should be withdrawn from Bosnia and Herzegovina and "former Yugoslavia should be given a chance to resolve its problems itself."

According to Ustinov, the Duma Committee for Issues of Geopolitics is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss the Balkan crisis.

### Deputies Demand Yeltsin Veto Air Strikes

*LD1502130594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Parliamentary hearings on the possibility of an escalation in the conflict on the territory of former Yugoslavia were held in the State Duma on Tuesday. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov reports:

[Zherebenkov] This is not the first time the State Duma has turned its attention to the Yugoslav problem. Hearings on the situation in former Yugoslavia have already been held by the committee on international affairs. One of the Duma's first documents was a resolution on ways of settling the Yugoslav conflict. But the latest hearings, held by the Liberal Democrat-dominated committee on geopolitical issues, have not really heard any fundamentally new proposals. Deputies again demanded that the president use his right of veto in the UN Security Council against NATO's decision on air strikes in Yugoslavia. They also want him to tackle the question of lifting Russia's economic sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Vladimir Ivanovskiy, a Foreign Ministry representative, assured the deputies that Russia would do all it could to prevent an escalation of the conflict. Here is what he said to me in an interview:

[Begin Ivanovskiy recording] I arrived at the hearings straight from consultations at the Foreign Ministry with British Foreign Office officials. As you know, Major is here at the moment. Yugoslav problems will be one of the central topics at the talks. We are doing everything we can, working with the different sides. I said that the president's special representative had spent almost the whole of Saturday night in talks with Milosevic. It is also envisaged that our president will have further contacts with the presidents of the leading countries, those that are playing an active part in the settlement process. The minister is in constant contact with them. So everything possible is being done to avert the worst. There is only one method available to us—talks and clarification of positions, the search for a joint solution. [end recording]

### Rybkin Warns Against Intervention

*BR1502104794 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 13 Feb 94 p 14*

[Interview with Russian Duma Chairman Ivan Petrovich Rybkin by Sergio Sergi in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—He cites the most famous Russian fairy-tale writers, but he likes Lenin the "social democrat." He cites French intellectuals and recalls popular proverbs. "Professor" Ivan Rybkin spoke with us in his office on the 18th floor of a glass skyscraper where the Duma, over which he presides, is located.

[Sergi] My first question: What concerns you most in the uncertain Russia of today?

[Rybkin] My chief concern is seeking consensus, seeking interaction between the various branches of power, between parliament and the president. I am dedicating a great deal of effort to this, and I do not think I have been wasting my time. The Duma representatives support me. We are convinced that nothing can be achieved in Russia without civil peace and consensus. The events in October put us on our guard: Russia's problems cannot be resolved by one force alone.

[Sergi] You talk about unity but how do you explain the Duma's vote concerning the establishment of a commission to inquire into the October happenings. Is that a challenge to Yeltsin?

[Rybkin] Absolutely not. We must always search for the truth.

[Sergi] Do you think the president will take this badly?

[Rybkin] I don't think so. We had a meeting and found that we were speaking the same language on many issues.

[Sergi] Can you rule out further clashes?

[Rybkin] Life is complicated. When we return home we never know how our wife will greet us...

[Sergi] And you always get home late...

[Rybkin] Let us say that on the whole there can be good relations with the president. Many people are starting to realize that sharing power does not mean causing rifts, by any means. The people want cooperation in power.

[Sergi] But I am not sure having the same parliamentary makeup helps. Yeltsin would have preferred a different parliament.

[Rybkin] I don't know; he has never expressed his disapproval. Moreover, how can he take it out on his own people? The citizens have their representatives. The parliamentary makeup reflects the moods of the people.

[Sergi] Would you call yourself a former Communist?

[Rybkin] Yes, I have already spoken about this. As far back as 1991 it was quite clear that there was a strong social democratic faction in the CPUS. Its declared program was quite clear and enshrined the principles of the plurality of property and economic management, and the principle of democratic unity instead of democratic centralism. The only name we can give that is social democracy. I think of Lenin, the NEP [New Economic Policy], and my grandfather who was right to say that, if Lenin had lived longer, a lot of things would have gone differently. Today I am saying that an accord can be reached between parliament, government, and the president.

[Sergi] So Fedorov did the right thing by resigning over the change in policy?

[Rybkin] Every cloud has a silver lining.

[Sergi] Your problem in the Duma is Zhirinovskiy.

[Rybkin] I would call that a problem of political and human temperament.

[Sergi] Do you consider him simply an intemperate deputy?

[Rybkin] What I just said is true, but there is something else as well. Probably he perceives keenly what others also perceive, for example a certain restlessness nationwide. He is seeking his electorate and finding it, just like any other politician. Is there any restlessness? Yes, and it can be exploited. That is what he is doing. Perhaps some people like that and find it useful.

[Sergi] The Duma and the war in Bosnia: Yes or no to the bombing?

[Rybkin] The whole world, especially Europe, has seen twice how easy it is to enter Serbia and also how difficult it is to get out. My experience tells me that those threatening to use weapons have not done their military service. My father was injured during the war in 1944 when he was 17, I wore my boots out during my military service, so did my brothers, and we have no desire to put them on again. Some would very much like to test new weapons in today's Europe. How many potential Chernobyl's lie hidden in Bosnia?

[Sergi] To what extent have nationalistic feelings influenced Russia's position?

[Rybkin] That is not true. The Russian people know what war is, they have had frequent firsthand experience. Think of the suffering in Leningrad. The feeling for suffering has always been a part of Russian awareness. Certain facts cannot be forgotten.

[Sergi] Let us talk about the government. Has the policy changed? No more shock therapy?

[Rybkin] It is always dangerous to make sudden changes. Doing "everything all at once" is very dangerous. Our monopolistic system cannot be destroyed with just one cavalier blow, nor was there any need to destroy it. Instead, many noses were broken. The country must simply try to gradually make the private and public sectors live together.

[Sergi] The Constitution does not assign much power to your parliament.

[Rybkin] Power is a subtle thing. Parliamentary power is even subtler. The fact is that what we rest on are the moods of the people, the great legitimacy of being elected representatives. We possess a powerful weapon called the formation of public awareness. What power does a priest have? Formally none. But...

[Sergi] Wouldn't you like to modify the Constitution?

[Rybkin] There are four or five points that qualify for change. But I would not worry about that now. The people understand. They know that there is too much power on one side. It is a matter of time. How much power did De Gaulle have in France? Yet parliament and the country helped him. It is a matter of time...

[Sergi] Except outside parliament...

[Rybkin] Those who think they can govern in that way are grossly mistaken. What happened in October was a defeat for everybody.

[Sergi] Yeltsin will adress the houses next Friday [18 February]. Do you hope that he will hold out a hand?

[Rybkin] I am hoping for an unprejudiced view of the Russian political and economic situation. An honest analysis of what we have achieved and of what remains to be done. And how the president proposes to resolve the crisis. Including the help we can give him.

### Duma's Lawmaking Record Deemed Unimpressive

*PM1402153194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 94 pp 1-2*

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "State Duma Examines Amnesty Issue"]

[Text] On Friday the State Duma completed its first month's work. It is remarkable that during this time it has not only failed to adopt a single draft law regarding the pressing problems currently facing Russia, but it has also failed to submit any for examination. It is also symbolic that the Duma began its session Friday with the issue of providing backup services for its work. Deputy Nikolay Travkin reproached his colleagues with the fact that "having received 800,000 rubles each," they have been in no hurry to get down to lawmaking work.

Another "anniversary" observation. Joint sessions begin with "warm-up sessions" or discussions of the agenda lasting two hours or 90 minutes. As a rule, these are a kind of "stream of consciousness" during which it is possible to hear political statements, outbursts directed at arch-opponents, and comments on the business in hand. However, having worn out their nerves and wasted time on sorting out the agenda, its subsequent implementation is never brought to a conclusion. The same proposals are submitted at the next session all over again to be accompanied by the same discussion.

Basically, the Duma is being dragged into discrediting itself. It sometimes seems that certain forces are doing this deliberately. It is not at all hard to lead the nervous parliamentary audience on.

Thus on Friday 90 minutes were devoted to the agenda. It was not until midday that the deputies addressed legislative issues directly. These included the draft decree on the amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution. In accordance with a decision made by the deputies, the issue of a general political and economic amnesty has also been submitted for examination. The issue chiefly involves the defendants in the State Committee for the State of Emergency case and people who are currently being investigated following their arrest in the events of October 1993. This is the first category. The second includes people who have received jail terms for economic crimes which are no longer considered offenses.

The State Duma's draft decree "On an Amnesty in Connection With the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution" proposes, among other things, that "defendants who have performed military service in operational armies and combined units and taken part in hostilities in defense of the Motherland or while performing military duties in connection with this" are to be let off. Moreover, a general pardon awaits men and women above the age of 60 and first and second category invalids. The list of names eligible for an amnesty is fairly wide. The only people to whom the state's mercy does not extend are recidivists and murderers.

## Regional Affairs

### Sobchak Discusses Returning Military, Dec Elections

*PM1402154294 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 12 Feb 94 p 7*

[Report on interview with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by Nils Morten Udgaard in Oslo; date not given]

[Text] "Russia's officers who supported Zhirinovskiy are now being given free land—to dampen down discontent," the St. Petersburg mayor said.

Anatoliy Sobchak warned the West against believing in a Russia where reforms are at an end and where the nationalists hold power when he met the press in Oslo City Hall as one of the heavyweight figures in Russian political life. "Before I travel home on Monday I am going for a medal for the Russian team, because 60 percent of them come from the St. Petersburg area." He is patriotic on behalf of the 5 million people in the metropolis that was long called Leningrad.

"The fact that half the officers and soldiers voted for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy the nationalist is a protest with a nonpolitical content directed against the conditions facing the soldiers who are being brought home from abroad. Often they have nowhere for themselves and their families to live; some of them have to move into tents out on the plains. These are people who in other countries have been used to good living conditions and some of their wages in hard currency. The important thing now is to get them good homes, also with help from the West. They must also be guaranteed civilian jobs, and here the authorities have set in motion a rapid program for the handing out of free land to officers and soldiers, and this is helping," Sobchak told AFTENPOSTEN.

"The important thing that has happened in Russia—as important as the revolution in 1917—is that in the elections in December we also adopted a new democratic constitution. This put a final end to the Soviet era; for the first time a Russian constitution contains guarantees of fundamental human rights. This—and the fact that we had elections that were fought between several parties—means more than Zhirinovskiy, whom the media in the West have blown up out of all proportion," he said.

[Udgaard] But economic policy has been changed. The IMF is skeptical.

"It has not been right to give loans from abroad to the government. It has not succeeded in using this money in a sensible way. Loans from abroad must be given directly to enterprises, to those who can increase production and earn money again quickly," Sobchak said.

Now Norway's Kvaerner and a group of firms in St. Petersburg—former military enterprises which today are looking for a new role—are to come together to build a new installation for waste treatment in St. Petersburg, he said after a meeting with the Kvaerner management. He is prioritizing closer ties with neighboring regions in the Nordic area, and said with manifest pride that the borders are now so open that in 1993 for the first time there were more Russians who visited Finland than there were Finns who crossed the border in the opposite direction.

This week Sobchak, along with his counterpart from Moscow, has been taking part in Oslo local council's conference on industry and commerce and he is hoping for more economic contacts.

"I have met with Mayor Ann-Marit Saebones and we will try to bring the exhibition of Edvard Munch's portraits over to St. Petersburg. We ourselves want to send works from the Hermitage, the czar's magnificent art collection, and from the Russian Museum to Oslo," Sobchak said.

Sobchak's stay in Oslo will last almost a week, with a detour to Lillehammer. But it is in fact NATO's supreme commander at Kolsas, British General Sir Garry Johnson, who has brought him to Norway—and into the mountain where the alliance sits on its secrets. Not many Russians have been there as yet, as far as we know. Sobchak has taken part in the "closed" conference, Viking Review, and spoken on the subject of collective security in northwestern Russia and the Baltic Sea region.

### Filatov Outlines Bilateral Treaty With Tatarstan

*LD1402190394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, said that "All I's have been dotted and all T's have been crossed" in relations between Russia and Tatarstan.

Commenting on the situation on the eve of the signing of the Russian-Tatar treaty on relations due to take place on Tuesday, Filatov said that "the new Constitution, not ultimatums, has changed the situation in relations between Russia and Tatarstan."

He believes that the treaty will allow Russia "not to force the republic to sign the federal treaty, but conclude a bilateral agreement with it which would take into account the specific features of Tatarstan."

By saying this, Filatov has admitted the possibility of signing bilateral agreements between Russia and its constituent republics, which, as he believes, will not run counter to the Constitution.

"No one intends to prevent Tatarstan from raising the level of management in the republic to a higher level than in other subjects of the federation," Filatov said.

He expressed the hope that the signing of the treaty will promote trust between society and power and "people will be able to realise that there are no unsolvable deadlocks or situations."

Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev arrived in Moscow on Monday to take part in the signing ceremony.

## International Affairs

### Russian Nuclear Fuel Supplies Halted

*MK1102095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 2*

[Yuriy Aleksandrov report in the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's nuclear power industry is on the verge of stopping. Nuclear fuel stocks at nuclear power plants are running out while fresh supplies from Russia have been stopped as of the beginning of this year. The TVEL concern, Russia's sole producer of nuclear power fuel, cites the ban by the State Committee for Supervision over the Safety of Work in Industry and Atomic Power Engineering [Gosatomnadzor]. The latter for its part points to the expiration at the end of last year of a corresponding interstate Russian-Ukrainian agreement. The problem has grown from purely economic into a political one.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed its Ukrainian colleagues that deliveries of nuclear fuel may be resumed only if Ukraine accedes to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. The Kiev leadership has asked Chernomyrdin to lift restrictions on nuclear fuel deliveries from Russia. It is hardly accidental that the conflict has flared up during the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament in Kiev. It seems that the Russian side decided to play a trump which can effectively shut down Ukraine's nuclear power industry.

### Official Calls for UN-Sponsored Disarmament Fund

*LD1502104894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2204 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Kiev, 14 Feb—Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council and coordinator of the group of deputies for issues to do with ratification of the START Treaty, was interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent on nuclear problems and conditions for Ukraine to accede to the Lisbon protocol.

Durdynets noted that for these issues to be settled by the current parliament first of all guarantees from nuclear states are needed. There should be documents, in his opinion, which would make it legally binding on them not to use nuclear and conventional weapons against Ukraine, rule out economic pressure and guarantee the integrity and inviolability of our borders. The Foreign Ministry is now at work developing the form of guarantees. Mr. Durdynets emphasized that the accession of Ukraine to the Lisbon protocol and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as a non-nuclear state is unrealistic. This contravenes both its military doctrine and official foreign policy. Mr. Durdynets's view is that "a state owning nuclear weapons" is the most acceptable formula for Ukraine.

On the question of the funds required to dismantle Ukrainian nuclear weapons, Vasyl Durdynets said a group of experts from Kharkov's physics and technology institute worked out an estimate for this. It came up with the minimum sum of $2.8 billion. This sum is at today's rate. Durdynets spoke in favor of setting up a nuclear disarmament fund under UN auspices.

With regard to selling conventional weapons, Mr. Durdynets stressed that 38 percent of the USSR's military industrial complex was concentrated in Ukraine, although this issue so far remains unresolved. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, in his view, ought to defend somewhat more actively Ukraine's right to trade arms with the international community.

Vasyl Kryuchkov, member of the standing committee for issues of defense and state security, is of the opinion that the minimum sum required to dismantle Ukrainian nuclear weapons is $5 billion. If done professionally, it could be as much as $10 billion.

### Armenian President Stops in Lvov

*PM1402143194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Feb 94 p 3*

[Galina Nekrasova report: "Beware Another Karabakh"]

[Text] Lvov—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan made a temporary stopover in Lvov en route to Britain. On the airfield's runway he noted that friendly relations with Ukraine have not yet been enshrined in law. Neither he nor Leonid Kravchuk have not yet had any time for this owing to their own big and acute problems. But both presidents are stressing the importance of this treaty, which will certainly be signed.

As regards recent events in the Crimea, Ter-Petrosyan had this to say: "God forbid that the Crimea turns into another Karabakh."

## National Affairs

### Nuclear Fuel Shortage May Halt Power Generation

*LD1402203194 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Up to the present date, three out of 14 generating sets at Ukraine's nuclear electric stations have found themselves on the verge of a stoppage due to the insufficient amount of nuclear fuel available. In the words of Nur Nihmatulin, the first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Use of Nuclear Power [DerzhKomAtom], problems with the supply of nuclear fuel from Russia have to do with the lack of funds to pay for energy carriers. In order to provide Ukraine's nuclear electric power station's with fuel and spare parts for this year, 350 billion rubles are needed. So far, DerzhKomAtom has no such a sum. The leadership of the committee sees the settlement of this issue in putting into practice the trilateral agreement signed in Moscow.

### Lack of Funds Blamed

*WS1502100894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] As of today, three of the 14 generating units in Ukrainian nuclear power plants are on the verge of being shut down due to the lack of nuclear fuel. The radio agency NOVYNY asked [name indistinct], first deputy head of the State Committee for Nuclear Power, to comment. According to him, the problems with nuclear fuel supplies from Russia are due to the lack of funds for energy resources. To secure this year's supplies of fuel and spare parts for Ukrainian nuclear power plants, Ukraine needs 350 billion rubles. At present, the State Committee for Nuclear Power does not possess such a sum. The Committee leadership believes that this problem could be resolved when the trilateral agreement signed in Moscow is implemented.

### New Crimean Premier Outlines Economic Policy

*LD1402140094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] As we have already reported, Yevgeniy Saburov, former Russian minister of the economy, has been offered the post of prime minister of the Crimean Government. At the moment, Saburov is a director of the Center for Information and Social Technology under the Russian Government, and intends to remain in this post. Our correspondent Irina Akhiyeva got in touch with Saburov on the telephone and asked him to say to whom—the Ukraine or Russia—will Crimea chiefly direct its economic policy?

[Begin recording] [Saburov] Crimea will direct it in such a way as will be best for the Crimean population from an economic standpoint.

There is no question of a secession or a withdrawal from Ukraine. It is a question of using Crimea's economic potential to the utmost and to improve the well-being of the people living there. Naturally, all these actions of Crimea's will be directed, as they always have been, toward all the republics of the CIS—people from the Baltics have come to us and have been pleased, and if any other countries come to us, then that will be even better.

[Akhiyeva] But Crimea will require a great deal of money for this.

[Saburov] Of course. That is why it will welcome any investments, wherever they may come from.

[Akhiyeva] You submitted your economic program to the government. Will you try and implement this program in Crimea?

[Saburov] Crimea is not a separate country and it does not have its own monetary system. Therefore, the opportunities to work in this direction are extremely limited in Crimea. As far as the Russian program—of which I am the author—is concerned, it is directed toward an instant halt in inflation. It is being examined at the moment in a pretty serious way; it has, in my view, very great purpose. Indeed, it is my firm conviction that there is no other way for us, and we will have to do this in any case, and the sooner the better. This is an unpopular belief.

[Akhiyeva] What do you mean by an instant halt in inflation? Today, straightaway?

[Saburov] Yes.

[Akhiyeva] Let us put it this way: I am an ordinary citizen, how will it affect me?

[Saburov] The standard of living will fall, in the first instance. Incomes (?will rise). Then there will be no inflation and life will be normal. It is not very pleasant, but there is no other way to go. Otherwise, we will just have disastrous unemployment. [end recording]

### Envisions 'Bridge of Friendship'

*WS1402170194 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by G. Potapenko: "Yu. Meshkov: 'We Have Inherited a Mountain of Problems'"]

[Text] The first news conference by Yuriy Meshkov, the first Crimean president, was held in the session hall of the Supreme Soviet on 31 January and was attended by Crimean and foreign journalists.

Yuriy Meshkov began his news conference with a brief appeal to Crimean citizens thanking them for voting, saying: "At a time when society is in material and spiritual poverty, we have to deal with a mountain of inherited problems—a collapsed economy, incompetent authorities, and a sharp increase in crime. A tremendously creative job is in front of us. Without your support, we will be unable to retain power. I am ready to cooperate with all political leaders of the Crimea, with representatives of all nationalities, and with every one who values peace and prosperity in the Crimea. The election results showed that the people of the Crimea are a single nation. The Crimea can and should become a bridge of friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia."

One of the main questions at the conference was how the president plans to build this bridge.

"We will restore the destroyed relations with Russia and pursue normal economic cooperation with Ukraine."

Speaking on interethnic relations in the Crimea, he said: "The situation in the Crimea and hotspots of the former Soviet Union continue to be compared with a persistence that I do not understand, though they have nothing in common.... First of all, we have no such preconditions in the Crimea. We have nothing that could make us fear such developments. Such views are not supported within the Crimea. If the Ukrainian economy does not collapse

and we are able to rescue ourselves, everything will be okay. At the same time, our stance on the Black Sea Fleet remains the same—a single Black Sea Fleet, owned by Russia, is the key factor of stability in the Crimea."

Yuriy Meshkov stressed that his election victory does not mean that a period of mass purges will follow. He said that it would be irrational not to use the experience of the old guard. Of course, people who have compromised themselves and broken the law will have to leave their posts.

Speaking about relations with the Crimean Mejlis, Yu. Meshkov said: "You should not think that all Tatars in the Crimea represent a single monolithic movement. The Tatar movement contains several movements and trends. We are in close contact with some of them and coordinate our actions with their representatives. I know that many Crimean Tatars voted for us. That is enough to ensure peace and stability in the Crimea. A key task of our policy is to ensure the implementation of our citizens' rights. We admit that the human rights of the deported peoples were violated. The state must compensate them for their moral and material losses. The Republic of the Crimea must draw up a legal basis for the state's obligations toward the people whose rights were violated. It is quite another matter that our poor budget will not let us provide compensation for those losses. However, we are conducting talks with Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and other republics on this issue. I hope that the state will settle accounts with its citizens."

Yu. Meshkov emphasized that the political rights of the Crimean Tatars will be assured in accordance with their requirements, the demands of human rights, and international agreements.

### Russian Official To Head Crimean Government

*LD1402192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] The director of the Russian Government Center for Information and Social Technologies Yevgeniy Saburov has agreed to head the government of the Crimean Republic. He confirmed this in a Monday interview with Interfax. The proposal to head the cabinet was made to Saburov by the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov during a visit to Moscow.

Saburov, 48, born in Yalta, Crimea, graduated from Moscow University with a degree in economics and worked at several research centers. August 1990—April 1991 Russia's Deputy Minister of Education, April—August 1991 the head of economic advisors of the Russian Prime-Minister, August—November 1991 the Economy Minister, since January 1992 the Director of the Government Center for Information Technologies.

Yevgeni Saburov is a full member of the Academy of Social Sciences. He said he agreed with the Russian leadership that he would remain the scientific chief of the center.

Asked about the possibility of introducing the Russian ruble in Crimea he said that he has to examine the economic situation before making decisions.

### Plyushch Interviewed on Economy, CIS Union

*WS1402193394*

[Editorial Report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program in Ukrainian at 1305 GMT on 14 February carries the live call-in program "Independence" attended by Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch. The program is moderated by Vadym Zadorozhnyy.

At the beginning of the program, Plyushch is asked who is to blame for the current economic crisis in Ukraine. Plyushch responds that the reason for the economic plight of Ukraine, as well as other republics of the former Soviet Union, is the irrational structure of the production sector: In Ukraine, about 70 percent of the labor force is employed in the production of the means of production, while only 30 percent is involved in consumer production. During 70 years of Soviet rule, he continues, Ukraine was a supplier of coal from Donbass and iron from Krivbass for Warsaw Pact countries, while now Ukraine "has been left alone" not only with the problems of Donbass and Krivbass, but also with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and a large military-industrial complex. Plyushch states that these three factors account for over one-third of Ukraine's budget expenditures. However, he emphasizes that these expenditures must be made because there are 1.2 million miners employed in Donbass and "hundreds of thousands" of workers in Krivbass. As for the military-industrial complex, the Supreme Council chairman says: "We do not need such a big Army. However, what are we to do with those people tomorrow? We started with an Army of 1 million men, now we have reduced that number to 500,000. As a result, budget allocations to pensioned soldiers are much bigger than those for regular servicemen."

Asked to name specific measures for overcoming the country's economic crisis, Plyushch states that the Ukrainian people should cardinally change production relations and implement reforms so as to "make a worker master of his own labor."

Commenting on the activity of the Supreme Council, Plyushch states that the Ukrainian parliament has done a lot to build up Ukrainian statehood, but contributed little to the implementation of economic reform.

Asking a question concerning a possible split of the Crimea from Ukraine following the recent presidential elections on the peninsula, Plyushch states that Ukraine's territorial integrity is assured by "all our documents," and Ukraine "will never back down" in this regard. The Supreme Council chairman goes on to emphasize that there are no countries which would encroach upon Ukraine's territorial integrity. He reminds listeners that the Moscow trilateral declaration by Presidents Clinton, Yeltsin, and Kravchuk provides

for noninterference in internal matters and asserts that all the sides will cooperate in securing the territorial integrity of their countries.

Commenting on the remark that the Ukrainian parliament has done little to support the use of the Ukrainian language on all levels of state life, Plyushch says that the process of introducing the Ukrainian language require a great amount of time and money. As of today, Plyushch claims, Ukraine is not able to publish a sufficient amount of Ukrainian textbooks and train a sufficient number of teachers of Ukrainian language.

Asked to explain the "associated membership" of Ukraine in the CIS economic union and cite concrete results of Ukraine's participation in this union, Plyushch states that these questions should be addressed to the government. He also says: "We have already concluded over 400 various agreements within the CIS framework, but none of them is working. Is there any need for such a union?" He states that cooperation between CIS countries is necessary, but it should be accomplished on the level of "permanent commissions and committees." Cooperation on the level of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is assessed by him as "pulling one another's leg."

At the end of the program, Supreme Council Chairman Plyushch is asked to comment on the balance between legislative and executive power in Ukraine. He states that Ukraine had been living too long under unified authoritarian rule, both in czarist and Soviet times. Therefore, he adds, Ukraine needs a redistribution of power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. He admits that the distribution of power between legislative and executive bodies has not been accomplished "very well."

## 35 Self-Defense Organization Members Arrested

*LD1402134194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] In Kiev the police arrested 35 members of the Ukrainian Self-Defense Organization (USDO) on charges of belonging to paramilitary units. This was announced on Sunday in Lvov by the chairman of the local branch of the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA), Andrey Shkil.

The Ukrainian National Assembly is an ultra-nationalist organization formed in 1990. USDO paramilitary units were formed under UNA auspices in early 1992. The same year its members joined military actions in Moldova on the side of the self-proclaimed Republic of Trans-Dniester on the pretext of protecting ethnic Ukrainians in the area. In early 1993 about 100 USDO fighters joined hostilities between Georgians and Abkhazians on the side of Georgians.

Addressing the 2nd regional conference convened by the UNA and USDO, Shkil said that the arrests in Kiev had been followed by searches at his organization's headquarters and at the flats of 3 USDO activists. The police confiscated various documents, identity cards of candidates for parliamentary elections, and registration lists.

With reference to the arrests Andrey Shkil declared, "This was the first day of reprisals against the UNA. We are beginning to inspire fear, because we have become a powerful force." The UNA/USDO was prepared for such confrontation when it was taking its decision to join the election campaign, he said.

"We'll come to power anyway, even if all our members are arrested," he declared.

The press center of Ukraine's Security Service told Interfax-Ukraina that the Service is aware of the measures the police took recently toward the UNA/USDO. "But this is a police matter," spokesmen for the Service stressed.

USDO's commander in chief, Yuriy Shukhevich, told journalists: "We are ready to fight anywhere—in the Crimea, in the Donetsk coal mining area, in Moscow, in St.Petersburg—wherever a war is on."

The UNA/USDO conference demanded that its members be freed, and declared that it views their arrest as the beginning of repression on the eve of elections.

Shkil also said: "We shall not issue declarations concerning developments in the Crimea. We are men of action: the Crimea will be either Ukrainian, or depopulated."

On Sunday the UNA/USDO leadership published data on their membership: there are 510 UNA/USDO members in Lvov Region. Besides, there are 388 USDO "fighters" and 286 candidates for "fighters" in Lvov Region. 865 men are viewed as reservists. 400 more members of the organization are known to live in Ternopol, Povno and Western Ukraine.

## Belarus

### Trade Union Strikers Seek Government Resignation

*LD1502143894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] The Belarusian free trade unions began an indefinite political strike in Minsk on Tuesday [15 February]. The goal of this action is to force the parliament and government to resign.

About 2,000 people gathered in Independence Square in front of the government building. Approaches to the government offices have been blocked by the police.

INTERFAX correspondents have not noticed any military equipment in the streets adjacent to the square.

A police officer in charge of ensuring the security of the place, who preferred to remain anonymous, told INTERFAX that the law-enforcement bodies had to put up with volitions [as received] of the Independence Square's status, according to which no mass actions can be held in it except celebrations of the official national holidays. He also said that the police did not disperse so as not to fan tensions. [sentence as received]

Belarusian Parliament Speaker Mechyslav Hryb told INTERFAX that the current political situation was complicated. He also said that his attitude to the strike was negative. All political problems must be tackled without pressure or violence, and at the negotiating table, he said.

Hryb believes that the idea of holding the strike was initiated by the Belarusian strike committee and the opposition Belarusian Popular Front, not by the workers. "These organizations pursue their own goals which have nothing to do with the interests of ordinary workers," he said.

He noted that the political strike may delay the conclusion of the monetary agreement with Russia.

He also pointed out that in the current situation the law enforcement bodies will act strictly within the limits of the law, and that all illegal actions will be curbed.

Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told INTERFAX that the strike committee was manipulating the current economic problems to destabilize the economy.

To quote Kebich, the strike leaders' assertions that many industrial enterprises had stopped work at their call were ungrounded. Many factories stopped working for economic reasons, long before the strike was announced, he said.

Neither the strike committee, nor the Belarusian Government could tell INTERFAX how many people had gone on strike.

### Resignation Urged by 22 Feb

*WS1502150694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] On 15 February, a meeting was held at 1100 local time [1000 GMT] at the Independence Square in Minsk, attended by 7,000-8,000 people. Representatives of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] and the Belarusian Strike Committee Council spoke to the participants. BNF Chairman Zyanon Paznyak appealed to the workers to continue the strike, which in his opinion is the only way to achieve early legislative elections and bring about the government's resignation. Syarhey Antonchyk, Strike Committee Council deputy chairman, pointed out that pressure was exerted on the organizers of the strike. Many enterprises, including the Minsk motor vehicle plant, announced 15 February a day off. The participants in the meeting demanded that the government led by Vyacheslav Kebich be dissolved by 22 February, and new elections to the Supreme Council be called. After the meeting, the strikers marched along Skaryna prospect to the Supreme Soviet building. The building was surrounded by metal barriers and a line of militiamen, so the meeting was held in front of the right entrance facing Engels street. While amplifiers and loudspeakers were being installed, the strikers were shouting: "Resignation! Resignation!"

The meeting near the Supreme Soviet was opened by Syarhey Antonchyk, after which the floor was given to Minsk City Soviet Deputy Anatol Hurynovych, Supreme Soviet Deputies Yawhen Tsumaraw, Zyanon Paznyak, and Syarhey Navumchyk, as well as to intellectuals, students, and workers. The speakers bitterly criticized the activities of the legislature and the government which "having led the nation to complete poverty are continuing to sell Belarus."

Syarhey Antonchyk called on the people to help appoint former Interior Minister Uladzimir Yahoraw to the same post in the new Council of Ministers. The participants reiterated their demands: The resignation of the Kebich government, the formation of a provisional government of people's trust, early elections in March 1994, and granting strike committees 15 minutes of broadcast time every night after the Panorama newscast [1900 GMT]. The Supreme Soviet has been given until 1200 on 22 February to discuss these demands.

After reading their demands, the demonstrators started to exclaim: "We want Hryb," because they expected that the Supreme Soviet chairman would come out of the building to receive the petition. After Mechyslaw Hryb failed to show up, a delegation was formed to hand the petition to him. The delegation represented by People's Deputies Syarhey Navumchyk and Aleh Papkow and Belarusian Strike Committee members Mikalay Zimin and Alyaksandr Lysenka entered the building and handed the petition over to Mechyslaw Hryb. According to Syarhey Navumchyk, "we received no concrete answer, but Hryb pointed out that the main thing to be done for Belarus now is the adoption of the state [word

indistinct]. Asked about his attitude toward the government's resignation Hryb said that he could do nothing about it. I understood that the Supreme Soviet chairman was dumbfounded."

At 1340 the meeting at the Supreme Council finished. There were no incidents involving either the militia or the strikers.

### Strike Meets With Weak Support

*LD1502104094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Minsk, February 15 (BELINFORM-TASS)—The resignation of the Viacheslav Kebich government, the election of a new government of popular trust and the early elections to the parliament are the three demands formulated by participants in the indefinite general political strike called in Belarus today.

The mass action is organized by the republic's striking committee, whose headquarters told BELINFORM that the most serious events are expected in the capital, as well as in Orsha, a major railway junction, and Soligorsk, the republic's mining center.

It appears that the call to strike has not met with support in most work collectives. The official trade unions have said in a statement that the action was premature, and many major industrial enterprises have declaimed to join. The call for mass action was condemned by the leaders of the parliament and government.

As of this hour, the action concentrates on independence square in Minsk, where tens of thousands of strikers from across the republic first met in April 1991. Now no more than 2-3 thousand people have converged on the square.

### Hryb Rejects Ultimatums

*LD1502153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By BELINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, February 15 (TASS)—The political strike scheduled for today failed, as the majority of Minsk enterprises are working in a normal regime. The car plant has a day-off due to the absence of spares.

A rally of participants in a political strike began at 11 A.M. Today [0800 GMT] on Minsk Nezavisimost Square to attract 4,000 local residents, much less than it was expected.

People's deputies, representatives of parties, movements and labor collectives demanded resignation of the current authorities, creation of a coalition government and early parliament elections.

Speakers of the one-hour-long rally, including representatives of the Minsk tractor plant and Soligorsk miners, criticized the government and the parliament for economic crisis, corruption of high places and low wages and salaries. An average plant salary is enough to buy several kilos of sausages.

Then the rally participants moved from the government building to the Supreme Soviet to hand over their demands to parliament leaders.

A proposal on universal elections of the Belarussian president will be put forward at a parliament session to begin in a week, parliament speaker Mechyslaw Hryb told a meeting with representatives of the strikers. If the parliament supports the proposal the elections can be held in late May-June. It will also be necessary to adopt a new Belarusian constitution, as the current fundamental law does not provide for presidency.

The Belarusian leader said he is ready to initiate a republican referendum on presidential rule.

A meeting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium will consider demands of the strikers on Thursday. "If these demands are an ultimatum, I do not accept ultimatums," said Hryb.

### Army Not To Interfere

*WS1402194894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] On 14 February, the Belarusian Defense Ministry issued a declaration regarding the commentary on Defense Minister Kozlovskiy's visit to a military unit in Maryina Gorka. The commentary appeared on the "Step" program and was broadcast on Belarusian television on 12 February. According to the program, the defense minister's planned meeting with personnel of the unit was aimed at instructing soldiers on how to fight strikers. The declaration stresses that the Defense Ministry is not going to change the existing training schedules so that they comply with the current political situation, adding that nobody can order soldiers out of their barracks to take part in political adventures.

### Government To Take Control of Food Prices

*LD1402145394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said in a television interview on Sunday [13 February] that his government intended to take control of food prices.

Today the prices of all foodstuffs in the republic, except bread and milk products, are not under government control. The government plans to introduce a system under which food will be sold at fixed prices for special coupons. The prices of sugar and alcoholic beverages will remain free from government intervention.

Describing the proposed monetary union between Belarus and Russia as a "salvation," Kebich said the

opinions of its opponents, Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov, could not prevent relevant documents from being signed.

"Effectively we are in a ruble zone even now," Kebich said. He said CIS countries used Russian rubles in their mutual transactions.

"For example, Kazakhstan is ready to sell us wheat for Russian money," Kebich said.

"We've reached the peak of the crisis, after which we'll start living better," he said.

### 'National Party' Sets Forth Platform, Goals

*WS1402163394 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 10 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Viktar Stryzhak: "Belarusian National Party Supports a Third Way"]

[Text] As we have learned, the organizational committee of yet another political organization—the Belarusian National Party [BNP]—has been established in Minsk.

In a telephone conversation with Mikola Kurak, secretary of the organizational committee and a reserve officer, Kurak noted that his party should not be confused with the existing Belarusian National Democratic Party. According to Kurak, the main goal of BNP is to unify Belarusians around national ideas, establish and strengthen the Belarusian state, integrate into Europe, conduct privatization while preserving promising state enterprises and kolkhozes, develop national Belarusian business, and open the path for foreign capital investments.

The BNP organizational committee has issued an appeal to citizens of Belarus. The main slogan of the appeal is "Belarusians, help yourselves!" In the opinion of the new party's founders, Belarusians should consider themselves the masters of their land. "We must not allow foreigners to oppress us. They are only guests in our common home of Belarus," the appeal stresses. "The BNP believes that neither the communist way nor the current pseudodemocratic one will lead the country out of political disorder and the economic abyss. The BNP supports a third way—the unification of all genuine Belarusians on a national basis."

The new party is to advocate the supremacy of Belarusians in all spheres of the country's life. The founders of BNP believe that the democratic development of our state is a matter of the future.

As Mikola Kurak said, the constituent assembly of the BNP will be held in late February or early March. According to Kurak, a number of signatures exceeding the minimum required to register a party with the Ministry of Justice has been collected in the capital alone. Kurak stated that the organizational committee has supporters in Brest, Homel, and Mahilew Oblasts, who have agreed to establish the BNP.

### Possession of Lithuanian Train Station Disputed

*WS1402160794 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 11 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report by Ales Lipay: "What Kind of Station Is It?"]

[Text] As BELAPAN has learned at the Belarus Ministry of Foreign Affairs, another round of negotiations between Lithuanian and Belarusian delegations on demarcating the Belarusian-Lithuanian border has been set for March. The negotiations will be held during a visit by a Lithuanian delegation to Minsk.

The negotiations are to readdress the issue of the property of the Hadutsishki railroad station, which is currently under the jurisdiction of the Lithuanian Railroad Company. As Stanislaw Ahurtsow, head of the Belarusian delegation and ambassador at large, told BELAPAN, the position of the Belarusian side is unequivocal: The station should belong to Belarus.

## Kazakhstan

### President Nazarbayev Continues Visit to Washington

*LD1502111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2045 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS-KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Igor Barsukov]

[Excerpt] Washington, 14 Feb—[passage omitted] The current official visit to the United States marks an important stage in the development of relations between Kazakhstan and the United States, President Nazarbayev said. The talks with the U.S. President proceeded "in a cordial and friendly atmosphere," the Kazakh leader stressed, expressing satisfaction with the fact that the White House meeting had proved "productive."

Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that the Charter of Democratic Partnership signed by the two presidents "marks a qualitatively new stage in our relations, which are now assuming a more comprehensive and long-term character." The document "embraces such areas as politics, economics, military cooperation, science, and technology, ecology, health care, and more." Security guarantees from the United States contained in the Charter, as well as Kazakhstan's participation in the multilateral cooperation in the framework of the Partnership for Peace program adopted by NATO, strengthen our confidence in Kazakhstan's future as a sovereign state, President Nazarbayev stressed.

Earlier on Monday Kazakhstan's president met representatives of the U.S. business community. An agreement was signed on the principles of cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the U.S. Government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the U.S.-Kazakhstan Council for Economic Development.

### Signs Partnership Agreement

*LD1502091894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0742 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington February 15 TASS—A meeting between Bill Clinton and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan took place in the White House on Monday. Nazarbayev had arrived in the United States for an official visit.

At the close of the talks, the two presidents signed a charter of democratic partnership between Kazakhstan and the U.S. Nazarbayev handed Mr Clinton a deed of accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Speaking at an ensuing press conference, the U.S. President said this was his first meeting with the president of Kazakhstan and it turned up to be a very good one. The two countries' efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons are one of the most important aspects of bilateral cooperation, Mr Clinton said.

The handing over of a deed of accession to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a historic step which gives an example to the whole world at the time that is crucial for international efforts as regards non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, he added.

The U.S. President announced that in order to strengthen partnership between the two countries and support reforms being effected by Kazakhstan, the U.S. will give Kazakhstan 311 million dollars this year as against 91 million dollars last year. "We also agreed to develop trade between the two countries", Mr Clinton said.

### Further on Documents Signed

*LD1502120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS and KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Igor Barsukov]

[Excerpts] Washington February 15 TASS—A meeting between Bill Clinton and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan took place in the White House on Monday. Nazarbayev had arrived in the United States for an official visit. [passage omitted]

The talks centered on matters aimed at further refining bilateral cooperation and at strengthening security in the world, the development of the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and in Central Asia.

The signed charter on democratic partnership "marks a qualitatively new stage in our relations which gain in scope and assume a long-term character", Nazarbayev said.

During the visit, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the Defence Ministries of the two countries, an agreement on cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan in science and technology, as well as a bilateral agreement on the exchanges of technical information and cooperation in nuclear safety.

Later on a three-sided agreement was signed between Kazakhstan, the U.S. and Russia on technological guarantees in view of the launch of a U.S.-made Inmarsat-3 satellite from Baykonur cosmodrome by a Russian Proton booster rocket.

Nazarbayev later visited the Pentagon. A U.S.-Kazakh accord was signed on joint defence cooperation and providing U.S. help to the new republic in converting its arms industry to civilian use.

Defence Secretary William Perry said he would visit Kazakhstan next month to begin implementation of the accord.

### IZVESTIYA Views Visit

*PM1502130194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 94 First Edition p 3*

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "United States Wants Showcase Cooperation With Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Washington—Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazkahstan, currently in Washington, is better known here than his country, although this is not surprising for the United States, where geography is not a separate subject in schools.

The Russian bias, of which the present U.S. administration has long been accused, recently found yet another critic—serious and unexpected—in the shape of Nazarbayev.

In contrast to the Ukrainians, for example, the Kazakhstan leader has invariably been courteous toward Moscow. That is now a thing of the past. Last week, on the eve of his second U.S. visit, Nazarbayev added his voice to the chorus of those for whom assistance for Moscow has long since ceased to be a symbol of the general rush to democracy.

Two years ago Nazarbayev's position contrasted sharply with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's pronouncements. At that time the Kazakhstan leader did not follow the Ukrainian guest's example and refused to criticize Russia, which made a very favorable impression on the former administration.

This time Kravchuk will be coming to Washington a few weeks after Nazarbayev. Specialists believe that on this occasion their views of Moscow, while not coinciding, will not be too different.

Following the dramatic changes in Russian domestic and foreign policy, Kazakhstan has acquired special importance for the West. It is the only one of the major post-Soviet nuclear states to move toward nuclear-free status, somewhat more slowly than Washington probably would have liked, but not by fits and starts. Small and large enterprises are being privatized here consistently and more quickly than anywhere else in the former USSR. The enormous oil deposits, surpassed only by the reserves in the Persian Gulf, give hope of an influx of hard currency and financial stabilization.

Of course, hard currency for Baykonur—that is, joint missile launches, participation in international telecommunications programs, and admittance to the high technology club—remains a dream. That was the motivation behind Nazarbayev's agreement to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty. For its 104 heavy ICBM's, each with 10 nuclear warheads, Kazakhstan will get $311 million next year—three times as much as expected. When Secretary of State Christopher visited the Kazkahstan capital last fall he insisted that Nazarbayev sign the nonproliferation treaty. Nazarbayev refused. Well aware that the possession of nuclear weapons makes his country the object of international attention, the president of Kazakhstan would only agree to a ceremony in the White House—with President Clinton. The Clinton administration would be happy to arrange some kind of showcase cooperation, in particular in the economic sphere. But this depends only to a limited extent on the administration. More than 50 major U.S. corporations are already operating in Kazakhstan, but they are cautious and in no rush, and their participation falls far short of what the country needs.

### U.S. Embassy Rejects Accusation Against Official

*LD1202114894 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan has issued a statement. It announces that no U.S. Government official is in any way involved in the dispute between the mayor of Almaty and a Kazakhstan business leader. Articles that have recently appeared in the local press which contained detailed implications do not have any foundation. Apart from that, it says in the statement, there is no such U.S. official by the name of (Dime Piece).

## Armenia

### President, Officials Head for Tbilisi Visit

*NC1402143294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Yerevan, February 14 (SNARK)—Today the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and other official persons: two state ministers, transport minister and head of the National Security Department left for Tbilisi to discuss problems in Georgia-Armenian relations, Press-Service of the Armenian president told SNARK.

These days the Armenian Government did strongly-word statement to mention there are forces in Georgia who are interested in solving Georgian economic problems at the expense of neighboring states.

Non-official sources told SNARK President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is on the intentions to raise a question of no obstacles goods delivery to Armenia and the safety for the gas pipe-line.

### Karabakh Troops Gain Positions in Weekend Fighting

*NC1402210594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] A relative calm has been prevailing on Armenia's borders for the past three days. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reports that the only incident occurred on the evening of [date indistinct] February. An exchange of fire took place between 2120 and 2140 at the border near Diran in Idzhevanskiy Rayon. The enemy used howitzers, machine guns and automatic weapons. There were no casualties.

According to the Karabakh Defense Army press service, the Karabakh side managed to occupy another two strategically important heights in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon on the evening of 11 February. In the afternoon, the enemy air force dropped bombs on Martuninskiy Rayon.

After a relative lull on Saturday, active combat operations resumed along most of the Karabakh front on Sunday. The main fighting took place in northern Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. The Karabakh formations launched a counterattack and managed to regain control of a number of heights near the Omar mountain pass.

On the same day, the Karabakh formations managed to halt a number of attacks by the Azerbaijani troops on the southeastern sector of the battlefront. After destroying one enemy tank and killing 30 soldiers, the Armenian fighters threw the Azerbaijanis back from the eastern borders of Martuninskiy Rayon.

A relative calm has again been prevailing along the entire war front since this morning.

### SNARK Responds to TURAN Allegations of PKK Activity

*NC1502053294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1222 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Stepanakert, February 14 (SNARK)—The reports issued by TURAN NEWS AGENCY caused at least a surprise—to the great surprise of Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, a parliamentary of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet, a Chairman of the Permanent Commission on External Relations, [who] according to these reports participated in a alleged meeting of the social and political leaders of Armenia with the representative of the Kurd Labour Party [Kurdish Workers Party, PKK] Zahir Bardani. TURAN says the meeting took place in Echmiadzin (Armenia) at the end of 1993.

"It was for the first time when I knew about such a meeting and my participation in it from TURAN reports issued on February 12", Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan told SNARK.

The report mentions that the result of the as if [i.e. supposed] meeting was the as if partial move of the PKK Headquarters from Turkey to Armenia and the appearance of 600 Kurd mercenaries within the Armenian detachments fighting in Azerbaijan.

"Official Baku is for numerous times trying to play the 'Kurd game' to justify his unprecedented military failures at the Karabakh fronts", Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan underlined. According to him, the Azerbaijani authorities sometimes announce the Lachinskiy, Kubatlinskiy and Kelbadzharskiy regions which are under the control of Karabakh forces to be "Kurd lands", sometimes accuse Armenians of the cooperation with Kurds. The fact that the Echmiadzin town was elected by them as a place of the as if meeting is not occasional, Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan considers. It's known, the Echmiadzin town is the center of the Armenians' spiritual life. So, Azeris make their provocation report the religious coloring.

Nevertheless, such statements are of the aim to justify the Afghan mujahedeens' participation in clashes against Armenians, the Azerbaijani Army's training of military instructors from Turkey, the USA and some states of the CIS. But such statement can't mislead the world community.

## Azerbaijan

### Baku Positive on NATO 'Partnership for Peace'

*NC1402214194 Baku TURAN in English 1737 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Baku, February 14 (TURAN)—It was reported during today's briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan that yesterday, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressing Baku's positive attitude towards

the NATO programme "Partnership for the sake of peace". Gasanov sees the programme as an important element of European security.

The letter also expresses hope that Azerbaijan will join this partnership since the programme includes regulations on respecting borders.

Today's scheduled visit of Georgian Foreign Minister, Alexander Chikvaidze, to Azerbaijan was postponed due to bad weather. However, towards the end of the day, the leader of the Georgian diplomatic representation is due to arrive in Baku. Important aspects to Azerbaijani-Georgian relations will be considered at this meeting.

Today the delegation of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is due to arrive in Baku as well. During meetings with Azeri Foreign Ministry officials, development of bilateral relations in policy, economy, culture will be discussed. The ratification of the treaty on friendship and cooperation, as well as bilateral treaties on cooperation in spheres of science, technology and culture are expected to take place.

Agshin Mehktiyev, a Foreign Ministry official said that due to diplomatic efforts by Baku, there has been positive movement towards U.S. policy vis-a-vis Congressional restrictions on government aid to Azerbaijan, which might lead to their abolition. Azeri Foreign Ministry officials say the White House and State Department have called for the annulment of Senator Kerry's amendment that was attached to the "Freedom Suport Act" (Title IX, Section 907). However, it is Congress that must vote the final decision. This Congressional amendment bans U.S. Government assistance, of most types, to the Government of Azerbaijan.

The representative of the Azeri Foreign Ministry expressed hope that the U.S. Congress will take a constructive position on this problem.

A visit by the Azeri president to the United Kingdom is expected in late December. The programme of this visit is being worked out now. Aliyev will meet and negotiate with British Prime-Minister John Major. The signing of the contract on friendship, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation is expected. The signing of bilateral treaty on cooperation in oil production is also expected.

## Press Conference on Aliyev's Visit to Turkey Noted

*NC1502065094 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a press conference today on the outcome of President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Turkey. It was noted that 16 agreements were signed in Turkey. They will create an opportunity for the further improvement of the multisided relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan in various fields.

The journalists asked many questions and appropriate replies were given to them.

## Debts to Communications Sector Threaten Russian Broadcasts

*LD1402201894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The transmission of programs by the Ostankino and Russian television channels could cease across the whole republic of Azerbaijan very soon. Since last November, Russia's major television companies have owed Azerbaijan's Communications Ministry over 500 million rubles for the hire of technical equipment and other services. This has obviously had its effect on payments between the communications and the energy sectors and has also delayed the salaries of specialists by several months.

A telegram demanding that the debt be cleared was sent to Moscow, and the reply—signed by the heads of technical services at the two television companies—came quite quickly: We have no money, and accept that transmission of our programs will be stopped.

The lack of a solution to the financial problems could lead to cuts in broadcasts by Azerbaijan's own national television. In the first two months of this year, the republic's Finance Ministry allocated only one quarter of the funds it needed to pay communications workers.

So, television could very well be added to our list of shortages very soon.

## Defense Ministry Says Armenian Advance Curtailed

*NC1402220394 Baku TURAN in English 1737 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Baku, February 14 (TURAN)—During the last day attempts by the Armenians to attack Kelbadzharskiy, Terterskiy and Fizulinskiy failed, says the press-centre of the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry. The same source reports that all of Armenia's attempts of advance forward have been stopped. Sustaining tremendous losses, the Armenian units were forced to retreat to their previous positions. The Press-centre of the Defense Ministry denied information from Armenian sources saying that in the northern Kelbadzharskiy region 300 Azeri soldiers were surrounded. According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, the Armenian Army only placed some orderlies on a predominant hill and shelled the road connecting the Northern section of the Kelbadzharskiy region (which is controlled by the Azeri Army) with the remaining regions of the republic.

### Military Adviser Views Army's Capabilities

*LD1002232894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[Text] Azerbaijani State Advisor for Military Issues Nuraddin Sadykhov told Interfax that the Azerbaijani army had "finally learned to fight and is now capable of defensive battle." "At last, it has learned to offer due resistance to Armenian offensives," he pointed out.

Sadykhov said that all Armenian attempts to launch an offensive over the last months "have been successfully repelled."

The state advisor indicated two reasons for Azerbaijan's military successes for the last month and a half. Firstly, the Azerbaijani armed forces have stood up on their own feet, surmounting obstacles, gaining strength, raising combat readiness, and forming various units.

Secondly, the Azerbaijani army got a second wind after Geydar Aliyev's election as president and his appeal to the people last November. "Then, all people recovered their self-confidence, many deserters started to return to their units, and the army became better equipped with hardware," the state advisor said.

As a result, the situation along the front line has gradually stabilized. An avalanche-like Armenian offensive was stopped, and a possibility to start "clearing Azerbaijan's territory from occupants" appeared. Sadykhov said "we had managed to free certain parts of the occupied territories."

At the same time, the official admitted that the republican army's current state could hardly be characterized as "high combat readiness." He said Azerbaijan desperately lacked military experts.

Sadykhov added that "last autumn's army draft plan was over- fulfilled." He pointed out that people started to ask to be sent to the army, to the front line, after the president's appeal."

## Georgia

### Armenia's Ter-Petrosyan, Delegation Visit Tbilisi

#### Arrive 14 Feb

*LD1402212094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] A delegation from the Republic of Armenia, led by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the country's president, arrived in Tbilisi today, 14 February, for an official one-day visit.

The delegation included Deputy Prime Ministers Gagik Martirosyan and Gagik Shakhbazyan. Transport Minister Henrik Kochinyan, Davit Shakhnazarian, the chairman of the National Security Department, the head of the president's office, Shagen (Kara-Muntyan), and other government officials.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan and the other guests were given a hearty welcome at Tbilisi airport by Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, the chief of the head of state's office, Vazha Lordkipanidze, and other officials.

A face-to-face meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze and Levon Ter-Petrosyan lasted for almost one and a half hours.

At the same time, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and officials from the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia discussed with the other guests a number of economic issues that are pressing for the two countries.

After this, the full delegation was received by Eduard Shevardnadze.

The head of state told members of the Armenian delegation that a good tradition had developed. We are meeting each other to examine problems facing us and, for me, every such meeting is a step forward toward achieving objectives that have been set, and toward strengthening traditional friendly ties between our two neighboring countries and peoples.

Mr. Levon Ter-Petrosyan thanked the Georgian leader for allowing this visit to be organized at short notice. The Armenian president said that apart from personal relations that are playing a productive role, an effective mechanism for interstate relations had been created. Levon Ter-Petrosyan announced that during the face-to-face meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze, they examined issues relating to economic cooperation problems and aspects of regional conflicts. It was stated that both countries supported the implementation of an idea of Caucasian dialogue and a meeting between the leaders of the Transcaucasian states with the participation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The talks discussed problems relating to the organization of the delivery to Armenia of bread products and fuel, in particular, gas. The sides agreed that grain intended for the people of Armenia would be delivered to them as soon as possible by rail from the seaports of Batumi and Poti. Special interstate treaties would be very important to speed up this process. In this connection, it was admitted that agreements reached at the level of broker firms and organizations were often not very effective and could even delay the process of delivery.

Eduard Shevardnadze supported taking quick measures to establish unhindered work of the railway and other transport, on which the situation in neighboring countries depends to a large extent. He also addressed other problems, stressing the importance of a (?common) approach by the two country's official leadership toward solving regional problems.

Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Jaba Ioseliani, the chairman of the Provisional Committee for the State of Emergency, Zurab Kervalishvili, the first deputy prime minister, Security Minister Igor Giorgadze, the chief of the head of state's office, Vazha Lordkipanidze, the chief of the Customs Department, Viktor Lordkipanidze, and the chief of the head of state's Information Bureau, Ramaz Sakvarelidze, took part in the talks.

The sides signed a protocol on the implementation of the accords reached during the talks.

On the same day, the delegation from the Republic of Armenia returned to Yerevan.

### Shevardnadze, Ter-Petrosyan Interviewed

*LD1402233794 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Joint interview with Eduard Shevardnadze and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by unidentified correspondent in Tbilisi, given at the end of Ter-Petrosyan's one-day visit on 14 February—recorded]

[Text] [Ter-Petrosyan] My visit had the following aim. Eduard Amvrosiyevich [Shevardnadze] and myself have a good tradition of meeting each other as often as possible. We take every opportunity to maintain a constant working spirit. We took this opportunity in Ashgabat before meeting each other here.

Naturally, we discussed practical problems relating to cargo deliveries, the progress of the implementation of trade and economic agreements, and we addressed regional problems, such as the settlement of the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Abkhazia. We concluded that there is no alternative to a peaceful solution of these conflicts. To solve these conflicts, we should use the good offices of international organizations—the CSCE and the United Nations, as well as Russia's special initiative. We reaffirmed the intention expressed at the meeting between Eduard Amvrosiyevich with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin [on 3 February in Tbilisi] to organize a regional meeting that will bring together the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

These, in fact, are all the problems that we discussed today, during our private meeting and during the meeting between the delegations.

We reaffirmed our intention to organize a summit among Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

[Shevardnadze] I confirm that there are internal needs that prompt us to meet. The current situation in our countries prompts us to meet more often and promote relations between the two neighboring states, which have a centuries-old tradition of friendship, cooperation, and fraternity. I think that every such meeting is another step toward the strengthening of our contacts and cooperation. This is what has happened just now. It seems to me that on all problems which are of interest and concern to our countries, we managed to work out a common approach and common principles.

The main thing is to achieve, as soon as possible, the completion of the conflict settlement process. Levon Akopovich and myself became convinced that, despite some individual peculiarities, there are common laws regarding conflict settlement. We are convinced that the leadership of Armenia, in particular, Levon Akopovich and his colleagues, can do something considerable to settle the conflict in Abkhazia. And, perhaps, we could also be useful regarding the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

An agreement in principle was reached today that we both deem useful the development of Caucasian dialogue, as we said. This problem was discussed at the meeting with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. I am aware of the opinion of President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyevich Aliyev. It seems that we, the leaders of the four states, consider very important and useful to hold such a dialogue on a regular basis. In the beginning, it will probably be held at the summit level. But later, these contacts will include ministries, and there will be meetings between the prime ministers and foreign ministers. You were surprised why the security [sentence as received]. The security and interior ministers will also meet. If we cooperate as neighbors, everything will be possible. All issues should be settled.

Therefore, the main result of our meeting is perhaps the fact that we decided to work on this idea until it is implemented.

[Correspondent] What is the position of the CIS member states leaders regarding the decision to launch air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Ter-Petrosyan] This is a difficult question. I think that now the world has to pay for its failure to react adequately in order to solve this problem. This is my point of view.

It is an extreme measure, the most unwelcome one out of everything that could have been chosen. I am still hoping that things will not go that far. There is still time. Perhaps, the international community will use all its efforts to avoid an air strike.

[Shevardnadze] I agree with what Levon Akopovich says.

I will say that, in principle, I am in favor of the implementation of decisions adopted by international organizations. However painful and difficult they may be, I am in favor of decisive measures, because any indecisiveness and uncertainty leads to even more serious consequences. This happened to us in Abkhazia, as it did in other conflicts.

Of course, there is some time, but not too much.

### Ter-Petrosyan Pleased With Talks

*NC1402211894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1448 GMT 14 Feb 94*

["Levon Ter-Petrosyan: 'There Is No Alternative to the Peaceful Settlement of Military Conflicts'"]

[Text] Tbilisi, February 14 (SNARK)—"Such summits should become traditional. One should use every opportunity to create a permanent work tone in our cooperation, said today in Tbilisi the President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan. At a press-conference following immediately their private meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who came here with a single-day visit, observed that practically all problems of mutual interest were concerned during the visit. Much attention has been given in particular to the regional problems, to situation in Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Together with Eduard Shevardnadze we came to a conclusion that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of such conflicts, declared Ter-Petrosyan. He also noted that it is highly undesirable if the Armenians living here would be involved in the ethnical conflict in Georgia.

Answering the SNARK's question, what is the position of Armenian President to the idea of a Caucasian 3+1 [Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia plus Russia] dialogue, proposed earlier by the Georgian head, Ter-Petrosyan told: "We have confirmed our intention to organize the meetings at high-level between Armenia, Turkey [as received] and Azerbaijan in presence of Russia. They must become traditional".

### Shevardnadze Grants Weekly Interview 14 Feb

*LD1402151294 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0650 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Interview with Georgian Supreme Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani in Tbilisi—live]

[Text] [Oniani] Good morning, friends. We are presenting a radio interview with the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. Batono Eduard, the Abkhazian side again violated an agreement, the Geneva Memorandum last week. In addition, the work of the commission for drawing up the statute of Abkhazia, held in Moscow under UN auspices and with the participation of the CSCE, was virtually fruitless. Jointly with Yeltsin you have addressed Butrus Ghali, emphasizing that all chances of a peaceful settlement should be tried.

[Words indistinct] said on TV that any political decision is better than war. And if this does not produce a result, if the killing of the civilian population continues, what way will remain?

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. I would not say that the Moscow talks on a statute for Abkhazia were a complete failure. Generally, talks about the statute will be complex and [words indistinct]. The next stage should be in Geneva on the 22d and I think the issue will be clearer then.

As for the principal problem of the issue, I mean an overall settlement of the conflict, I believe there should be no doubt that we were right to have chosen a peaceful way toward a settlement from the very beginning in spite of the fact that it appeared to be ineffective. A peaceful way is the best and most reassuring way to settle conflicts in our time. Those who can analyze all that has been happening on our planet for the last 20, 30, or 40 years will be convinced that a peaceful settlement is the most reliable way.

Both the Russian president and I were guided by this as we appealed to the UN Secretary General to have international peacekeeping forces in their classical form deployed or, if that were impossible, a Russian contingent would be a major force there.

Every opportunity should be used. I realize that many people feel upset when I keep speaking of a peaceful settlement to the conflict. I am not really surprised that this can upset someone whose house has been burned down and who does not know when he will be able to return home. He will naturally be looking for an extreme decision, which in his opinion could represent an earlier return home and the beginning of a normal life. But this is a superficial impression which is created by emotions and it cannot be fruitful. I would like to say the following. If we fail to bring in peacekeeping forces—and this is the only way out and the shortest way to peace—if we fail to bring in peacekeeping forces, (although I believe that this can be done as a result of consultations in New York and other capitals), if this fails and proves useless, everyone should remember that if this proves to be ineffectual, the worst thing will happen, there will be bloodshed.

I see this as a dreadful prospect. This will happen spontaneously irrespective of the will of the Georgian authorities or bodies of other countries. Processes will become uncontrollable and the conflict will spread over large areas, however grave it might be to think of this. Everyone should understand this. As I say this I mean our listeners, the listeners of our country, I mean the Abkhazian leaders who are in Gudauta and Sukhumi, and of course members of the UN Security Council and Russia in the first instance, because Russia has understood the reality of this danger of the spread of the conflict over large areas. Regardless of what we want, additional forces will be dragged into the conflict and this would be a disaster not only for Georgia but for this big region as a whole.

[Oniani] You say that Russia understood it partially and this was felt when several members of the Russian State Duma made a statement on television last night. Almost

the same ideas were expressed. However, a politician differs from an ordinary mortal by the need to take unpopular decisions without being guided by emotions. At a parliament sitting you said that the Abkhazian issue could not be settled without Russia's participation. Your and Yeltsin's appeal says that if UN forces cannot be deployed in the conflict zone, Russia is ready for this. We are said to be asking Russia to do what Russia itself has taken an interest in.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to make the official Russian stance clear. Either international forces in their classical form arrive, and Russia agrees to the participation of the international forces and it will cooperate with the forces even by being a part of those, or it will make a commitment to bring in its contingent on a peace mission. There is no other way. If we speak of a peace settlement, there should be either international forces or a Russian contingent.

There is a third way, I mean another decision can be taken within the CIS but this will apparently be a repetition of a Tajik model. And this is obviously not quite desirable. It is difficult to argue against the righteousness of this stance. I mean the Russian statement that supports the introduction of international forces but, if that is not possible, Russia will undertake to bring in its contingent. It is really difficult to argue against this. We ourselves are primarily interested in what we are asking Russia to do. The idea that we are asking Russia to do what Russia is interested in can be reversed like this: We are asking Russia to do what we ourselves are interested in. No other way out can be seen.

[Oniani] One deputy has suggested that Russia close off the border and we shall fix Abkhazia.

[Shevardnadze] There is that idea. But this request is rather naive and I think the main point is what I have just said.

[Oniani] I would like to remind you of your words said at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. The whole country should turn toward the economy. A morbid politization of our community is a deviation from the proper coursel.

An anticrisis government program was made public last week. How effective do you think this program will be and how likely do you think the government crisis or even resignation is in the near future in the light of numerous complaints against the government and an idea that our government is not a unified team?

[Shevardnadze] The presented program is a maximum of current abilities. All existing forces participated in the work; I mean ministries, agencies, institutes, individual experts, and so on. The work took months. I also joined at the final stage and I was also involved, in a way. The principal thing is that the country should really turn toward the economy and everyone should care about the economy and think and care about escaping from the crisis.

The presented program is realistic. I said in a speech that an optimistic scenario was mentioned as well as a pessimistic scenario. I can say that the maximal version is a realistic one. But it can be realistic only if we are able to find additional resources to overcome the energy crisis.

Armenia receives several-fold less power and fuel and they run 70 percent of their industry. The population experiences extreme hardships there but they all realize that if the economy stopped the country would lose all prospects for the future.

I do not mean that we can still take something away from the population but we obviously have to look for additional resources, additional sources of fuel and power. This could be received either through foreign credits or other ways, such as through relations with Russia or with Iran and a lot of other ways.

As for an idea that there is not a unified team, I am not aware of anyone in Georgia who is capable of summoning his people and creating a united team. I think these ideas create a very primitive image of a team. A team cannot be created just like that. In order to create a team, like-minded people, people who understand each other easily are needed and, in addition, a very high professional level should be guaranteed and this takes years. It needs years of experience and sometimes decades.

Thus, we cannot demand that the present authorities do something that is very difficult and almost impossible to do. We have not got an ideal and strong team like this at the moment but, anyway, the present Cabinet of Ministers is the most we could afford in a difficult situation like this.

As for a government crisis, there will probably be certain complications during the endorsement of the members of the government by the parliament. I would like to ask everyone to refrain from extreme demands. A government crisis will make the desperate situation in the economy even more complicated and difficult. Those who put forward revolutionary slogans demanding, in particular, that the Cabinet of Ministers be replaced, certain statesmen resign and so on are driving the country to a deeper crisis. It is impossible that a person learn how to be a minister in just three or four months. This should be realized.

When we were changing the previous Cabinet, I was against it because one needs at least one or two years to have an idea about one's department. That is why we have to take care of the people and we have to be more kind to individual statesmen and even to the Cabinet. Today, we have to be guided by a common responsibility rather than by a desire to amuse ourselves. Unfortunately, the latter is often observed in one part of the community and especially in the parliament.

[Oniani] I would like to recall yet another point from your speech at the Cabinet of Ministers. You said: We

have to introduce private ownership as soon as possible. There are people in the government, including the staff of the head of state, who hamper the activities of entrepreneurs.

Incidentally, the mafia is not happy because of the development of entrepreneurship in Georgia, either. They have a significant network and not only in our republic, unfortunately.

[Shevardnadze] Speaking of the country's development in the long run, of course proprietors, businessmen, industrialists should be considered as major components of the society required for the expansion of the economy. We have to do our best to switch to the market economy as soon as possible. I agree with you that this idea scares certain structures and it scares the mafia, too, because a proprietor has a well-developed sense of responsibility and aspiration to protect his own property, which is the basis of his personal happiness.

Despite the opposition, this process must be sped up and it will be sped up. Apart from that, our population has to realize that something should be done so that a proprietor, an entrepreneur will not become a leech. An antagonistic attitude to leeches can be observed in people at the initial stage. We have to support and help the establishment of serious business and the preparation of a whole school of businessmen, the businessmen who will come forward thanks to their intelligence, cleverness, and hard work rather than dishonest ways. The earlier we manage to establish businesslike ties and have such proprietors on the scene, the sooner the country will find a way to improve the situation.

[Oniani] You accepted the defense minister's resignation last week and temporarily assumed the duties of minister. I would like to recall your words at the meeting with the army high command. I have been quoting you very often today but this is due to necessity. The state has to provide for the army. The army cannot exist on charity or depend on someone's mood. The army cannot be built on sand. You also spoke about building a modern Georgian Army. On what is your optimism based? Is there a basis in Georgia to allow the building of a new army?

[Shevardnadze] When I speak about a new army I do not mean that those who are in the armed forces now have to quit and new people have to come in. When speaking with a certain optimism that we will soon have a truly modern national army, I mean the cadres who comprise the basis of our army now and who already have combat experience. Many of those are model heroes and brave fighters fully devoted to the interests of the country. We were defeated but this loss is also a certain experience which this generation has acquired. This is obviously one of the bases for my optimism. The main thing is that we have cadres.

Second, there are people, I mean in our community, who realize the importance of the army and its purpose for the building of an independent state. I believe that youth will say a decisive word in the building of the army. I will do my best to make military service the highest duty, an honorable mission, and even a kind of privilege for the best of our youths.

My direct and active involvement in this process is due to my desire to use all my power and rights and have the army built on a legal basis and financed through legal sources. And this should improve two- and three-fold the conditions of the servicemen rather than aggravate them. I did not use the word privilege accidentally. Speaking of the army I also mean border guards, interior troops, and all [word indistinct].

[Oniani] And a final question. An Armenian delegation led by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is arriving in Georgia today. What is the chief purpose of this visit and is it not linked with an idea you expressed during President Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi, namely, that it is necessary that leaders of the three large Transcaucasian states meet regularly to handle conflicts in the area. Plus Russia.

[Shevardnadze] We agreed to meet before. The Armenian president was in London and he asked me to arrange this meeting as soon as he returned. I spoke to Mr. Aliyev as well as Mr. Ter-Petrosyan about the necessity of such meetings. All three of us share a view that the meetings; regular, systematic meetings are essential. These may start on a bilateral basis and then later all three of us will probably meet. Then Russia as well as other countries will be able to join us.

Obviously, a major topic will be a Caucasian dialogue and how promising, how reassuring, and realistic the beginning of a Caucasian dialogue will be. Speaking of dialogue, I do not mean an ordinary conversation. I mean a certain (?quorum) which will be regulated chronologically; in other words we will meet two or three times a year and discuss problems.

In addition, bilateral relations could predominate today, problems that concern the two countries. We will have a serious conversation. We have many interests in Armenia, and the Armenians strongly depend on how well the Georgian communications network works.

I would like to add that Mr. Aliyev will not be involved in our present dialogue personally but I have had preliminary talks with him and after my meeting with the Armenian

president has ended, my meeting with the Azernaijani president will take place. I think we are approaching the phase when our contacts are to become more vigorous and we have to do our best so that the Caucasian factor will play its decisive role in fighting for peace and stability in the region.

### New Deputy Interior Minister Appointed

*LD1102225394 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[Text] By a Georgian Cabinet of Ministers' resolution, Davit Mgeladze was appointed as a deputy Georgian internal affairs minister.

### Russia To Have Seven Army Bases in Georgia

*LD1402192094 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Feb—Iberia reports that in the near future, the Russian Federation will have seven military bases in the Republic of Georgia, not three, as mentioned during the latest talks. The seven bases will be in Gudauta, Sukhumi, Ochamchire, Batumi, Akhalkalaki, Vaziani, and Tskhinvali.

### Zviadists Claim Gamsakhurdia Still Alive

*PM1502114594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 1*

[Report from the "Inform" roundup prepared by A. Yevtushenko, D. Filipchenko, D. Babich, I. Pankov, S. Frolov, U. Babakhanov, and Ye. Smirnov: "Is Gamsakhurdia Alive?"]

[Text] "Gamsakhurdia is alive. And he will soon head a Georgian Government in exile in a state somewhere outside the former USSR." This was announced quite categorically by a group of Georgian Zviadists on an unofficial visit to Stavropol to meet with kindred spirits, Russian nationalists, and the Georgian diaspora.

## Latvia

### Birkavs Signs 'Partnership for Peace' Program

*WS1402211294 Tallinn BNS in English 1928 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Excerpt] Brussels, Feb 14, BNS—Latvia became today the last Baltic state to sign on to NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

The agreement was signed in Brussels by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, who also met with NATO Deputy Secretary General Sergio Balandino. [passage omitted]

### German Ambassador Visits Parliament, Discusses Integration

*WS1402163694 Riga LETA in English 1320 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Riga, February 14 (LETA)—Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Saeima or parliament of Latvia, on Friday [11 February] met with German Ambassador to Latvia, Reinhard Holubek, on his first visit to the speaker of the Latvian legislature. According to the Saeima press service, during the meeting Anatolijs Gorbunovs pointed out that the two countries in recent years had succeeded in forging close cooperation in political and economic matters. He praised the role of the German embassy, as well as that of the support group for Latvia set up in German Bundestag, in stepping up the process.

The ambassador on his part stressed that Latvia was a part of Europe and the process of its integration into European structures had to be continued. He said Latvian politicians had yet to face two major problems, notably, withdrawal of Russian troops and passing the law on citizenship.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs stated that Latvia should push forward with its efforts to reach a concrete agreement on Russian troops pull-out, which would include conditions set by Latvian negotiators. The chairman of the Saeima also said he considered it an urgent necessity to find the best formula for solving the citizenship controversy, which would be acceptable for the majority of people of this country. Asked to comment on the recent remarks on the Latvian draft law on citizenship voiced by the high commissioner with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Max Van der Stoel, Anatolijs Gorbunovs noted that he personally still did not see arguments which would ease anxiety about the future fate of their nation, felt by majority of the Latvians.

Asked about his opinion on another controversy of the day, namely, of including non-citizens into electorate eligible to participate in the local elections, scheduled to be held in late May, the speaker of the Saeima pointed out that the decision which provided a vote for Latvian citizens only, proved to be the right one at the last summer's parliamentary elections. He added that the decision had ensured legitimacy of the sitting legislature, as well as had endorsed it with rights to solve any problem of national interest.

Latvia is threading the right path in resolving its political problems, the newly appointed German Ambassador to Latvia Reinhard Holubek told reporters after his meeting with the Chairman of the Saeima Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

The ambassador said he was certain this year was going to be of great importance for Latvia, marked with significant events both in adopting key legislations and in settling relations with its neighbours, notably with Russia.

Holubek pledged his country would spare no efforts to seek closer ties to be forged between Latvia and the European Community.

### Agreement Expected on Russian Troop Withdrawal

*LD1402210494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1801 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] The talks between Latvia and Russia on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia were resumed this afternoon at the House of Science at Lielupe.

As the press center of the Cabinet of Ministers informs, the talks will focus on a general agreement on the withdrawal of troops, the conditions for the future operation and dismantling of the Skrunda radar station, the problems of social security of Russian military personnel, and questions connected with the activity of representatives of both states in the vicinity of the border between Latvia and Russia.

Based on the political will of Latvia and Russia and on the work accomplished during the previous talks, all the agreements included in the agreement package on the withdrawal of the Russian troops could be coordinated during this round of talks. This was predicted today at the airport by Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation, upon his arrival in Riga. Zotov added that there were grounds for hope also for a ratification of these documents at the Russian parliament. These agreements were being drawn up and concluded taking into account the interests of both Latvia and Russia.

It is anticipated that at tomorrow's sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Latvian delegation will be given the authority to agree with the last proposal recommended by Russia of maintaining the operation of the Skrunda radar station for four years, and after that, dismantling it in the course of 18 months.

The talks will continue until 16 February.

### National Independence Movement To Form 'Shadow Cabinet'

*WS1402184894 Riga DIENA in Latvian 3 Feb 94 pp 1, 8*

[Article by Sanita Upleja: "LNNK Faction Announces Crisis in Parliament and Government"]

[Text] Riga, 2 Feb—The Movement for Latvia's National Independence [LNNK] faction in the Saeima [parliament] is of the opinion that due to the ill-considered actions of the government, there is a crisis in the Saeima, as well as the government, the LNNK deputies announced at a press conference today. The deputies stated at the conference that the opposition is going to establish a "shadow cabinet." However, they still have to wait for the right moment— among other reasons, because of lack of resources. The LNNK deputies said that the government itself could solve the situation by seriously reconsidering its actions.

The LNNK faction has also disseminated a statement, in which it asks all inhabitants of Latvia to express their views on the actions of the Latvia's Way and Farmers Union coalition, as well as those of the government that was established by this coalition. The LNNK also urged representatives of all Saeima factions to respect the interests of the Latvian nation, instead of supporting "various interest groups."

As Maris Budovskis stated at the conference, the reason for the government crisis is the great haste with which the government strives to take over all possible power. As an example, M. Budovskis pointed to the cabinet's 28 December 1993 decision to put the Radio and Television Council under the control of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture. In his opinion, this is a dangerous precedent which shows their desire to control the mass media. According to M. Budovskis, the Parliamentary Commission of State Administration and Municipality has informed the government that several parliamentary commissions have protested against this subordination of the Radio and Television Council. He also recalled the unfortunate laws passed by the cabinet, under Article 81 of the Constitution during parliamentary recesses, and expressed doubt as to their legality and the need for such haste in passing them.

M. Budovskis stressed that many of the government laws were passed in contradiction to Article 81, because they introduced changes in laws that had already been passed by the existing Saeima. Moreover, several of these laws had been drafted and submitted at the time to the Saeima and were awaiting discussion. By adopting those laws, the government has shown a lack of trust in the Saeima's competence and has reduced the powers of the municipalities. M. Budovskis also stated that the ill-considered behavior of the cabinet apparently has created conflict in the Latvia's Way faction, because certain voting results bear evident signs of a breakdown in faction discipline. At the same time, Aristids Lambergs predicted that in the very near future the ruling coalition would find itself in danger of splitting, and that it should think of attracting partners from other factions. LNNK Deputy Anna Seile expressed the opinion that currently "the government dictates the rules to the governing coalition," while the coalition should be the one to regulate the activities of the government that was created by it.

## Lithuania

### President Brazauskas Marks First Year in Power

*LD1502113994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, February 15 (TASS)—It is a year today since Algirdas Brazauskas was elected president of Lithuania. In the country's first universal democratic elections 60.03 percent of voters cast their ballots in his favour.

Responding to a question from the country's most popular daily LIETUVOS RITAS about what successes the president feels proud of, Brazauskas said that when he won the elections, news was circulated all over the world that Lithuania was again ruled by communists.

"Since that time Europe, and not Europe alone, has come to realize that all power institutions in the republic were elected democratically, that reforms continue and that Lithuania is pursuing a predictable foreign policy. No one in Europe can say that some uncertain types were in power. It was an important task for as to change the image of Lithuania in the eyes of the world community", Brazauskas said.

"The adoption of Lithuania in the Council of Europe confirms the fact that our country has won international recognition. We see good relations which have been formed lately with the European Union, NATO and other international organizations as our great achievement," the Lithuanian president said.

"In the field of foreign policy we managed to avoid major conflicts through planning, and the Russian Army was withdrawn on time," Brazauskas said.

He also said that his successes as president also included better relations among people. "Suspiciousness is vanishing and there is no more search for internal enemies," Brazauskas stressed.

### Landsbergis Views Relations With Russia

*LD1402174894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Interview with Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Fatherland Union Party and leader of the Lithuanian Seimas opposition, by an unidentified correspondent in Vilnius on 14 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Last week, Russian news agencies quoted the annual report on the situation in the country made by President Algirdas Brazauskas saying, incidentally, that President Brazauskas emphasized the improvement in relations between Russia and Lithuania in 1993.

Esteemed Professor, you have expressed concern about the relations between the big neighbor and Lithuania at today's news conference.

[Landsbergis] It is evident, and what is evident is not open to question—that Russia's official policy toward its neighbors, including the Baltic states, is hostile. This is expressed by threats, pressure, by constant demands and reproaches, and even by accusations. The Baltic states cannot feel secure at a time when such official military and foreign policy doctrines as those recently proclaimed by Russia claim that Russia allegedly has the right to interfere into our affairs using force. In general, the whole policy concerning the encirclement of Russia has been fabricated, which is labelled "the near abroad".

This would mean the surrounding world (?according to) the Russian politicians is divided into two categories. Some foreign countries appear to be just normal, regular, foreign sovereign countries, and others are especially subject to influence and even domination by Russia.

This fact makes not only the Baltic states, but also the states of Central Europe, to look for support in the structures of European stability and security that have proved their worth.

In response to this, Russia once again accuses these countries, including the Baltic states, of anti-Russian or anti-Russia policies. This is a specific aggravation of the political and psychological atmosphere that is coming from Moscow. Therefore, it is rather difficult to give an assessment of this entire unfolding process, including the growing pro-imperialist and aggressive forces in Russia. It is difficult to regard all this as an improvement of the situation in general.

Of course, the former and current governments of Lithuania have been trying to maintain good relations with Russia; however, this cannot be said about the Russian side. Perhaps what Russia regards as good relations is not partnership based on equal rights but something else altogether.

[Correspondent] As is known, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has been stressing of late that a program has been prepared in Russia that will defend the interests of the ethnic Russians living outside the territory of Russia, i.e. in the near abroad. He also stressed the problem of anti-Semitism especially in the Baltic states. [passage omitted]

Brazauskas said that the pressing problems raised at the Vienna summit were also topical to Lithuania. These problems were: Aggressive nationalism, a problem of racism, and Zionism.

[Landsbergis] This is propaganda and diplomatic murk that is sometimes used in the campaign for international public opinion, and which has been known to us for several years already. We encountered it when attempts were made to harm Lithuania, and this was coming from Moscow. Quite often, Lithuania and other Baltic states were represented as anti-Semitic, nationalistic, anti-Russian, and what not.

Of course, one of their objectives was to make influential financial circles in the West become hostile, which would then refuse to help or would refrain from cooperation with the Baltic states—in particular, with Lithuania. [passage omitted]

It seems that this card is being used again, since Mr. Kozyrev is accusing anyone and whoever he likes of anti-Semitism. No doubt, at the same time, he fails to mention Russia, where very strong anti-Semitic organizations and groups are active that create an atmosphere of threat or even terror against Jews. [passage omitted]

The fact that the mention of Zionism as a topical problem in Lithuania occurred in the annual report of President Brazauskas is completely incomprehensible to me. This is such an old card of the Brezhnev era, which was used to pacify perhaps the Arab partners. However, to claim that this is a topical issue in Lithuania today is simply nonsense. [passage omitted]

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